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Kuwait distances self from criticism of U.S.

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government on Sunday distanced itself from remarks by a senior official playing down the U.S. role in freeing the country from Iraqi occupation. Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan, speaking in his capacity as acting cabinet affairs minister, described remarks by National Council Speaker Abdul Aziz Masmeed as "a pure personal opinion," the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. Mr. Masmeed said in an interview with the London-based weekly magazine Al Majallah that Washington had sought to protect its own interests by driving out the Iraqi troops, not to help Kuwait. In the first official Kuwaiti comment on the interview Mr. Rodhan said: "Kuwait realizes at the popular and official levels the reality of the basic role played by the United States along with brotherly and friendly countries in liberating Kuwait." Mr. Masmeed also accused the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, Edward Guehn, of interfering in the country's domestic affairs by "talking about democracy." KUNA said Mr. Rodhan praised Mr. Guehn's "in consolidating good relations between the two countries which move positively towards more cooperation and witness continued growth."

Iraq denies oil exports through Syria

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, its oil sales abroad blocked by U.N. sanctions, denied on Sunday that it was beating the embargo with exports through a long-closed pipeline across Syria. "The Syrian are using the pipeline to transport their own crude," Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti told his ministry's monthly newsletter, Oil and the World. Syria, which backed Iraq in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, closed its pipeline from Iraq to the Mediterranean in the early 1980s. It has since found oil near the Iraqi border. Press reports of sanctions-busting through Syria began to appear in the region in March. They denied in both Baghdad and Damascus and also dismissed by the United States. Mr. Hiti was not specific about what report he was contradicting. His statement ran on the front page of the newsletter. Mr. Hiti also denied that Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq were selling crude oil abroad. Northern Iraq's main oil centre, Kirkuk, is under government control. Some wells are in the area held by Kurdish rebels and accessible by road from Turkey.

Bilaterals to resume after June 23 Israeli elections

Amman meeting calls for urgent Arab League meeting to discuss Israeli attacks against Lebanon

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab parties to peace talks with Israel decided Sunday to continue the peace negotiations after the June 23 Israeli elections and issued a call for an urgent session of the Arab League to discuss Israel's air raids against Lebanon.

A final communique issued after a two-day meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon and the head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said the sixth round of bilateral talks with Israel will be held in Rome after the Israeli elections.

Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini said the decision not to hold the sixth round was aimed at depriving the ruling Likud Party of Israel from making political capital from the peace process and using it to gain votes in the elections.

The final communique and statement made at a press conference by the four sides indicated continued close coordination among the parties despite differing views on the multilateral phase of the peace talks.

Conference officials said the issue of the multilateral talks, which Syria and Lebanon are boycotting, was not discussed.

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, the Jordanian foreign minister, read out the final communique, which said that the endorsement of con-

tinued bilateral talks with Israel came despite "regret that there has been no substantial development in the peace talks so far, resulting from continued Israeli refusal to adhere to the basic principles of the peace process."

The meeting reviewed the outcome of the five rounds of bilateral talks held so far and observed that Israel "behaves as if it were excluded from adhering to the principles of international law and exempt from abiding by clear standards of international legitimacy."

Nevertheless, the four participants "expressed their keenness on continuing the peace process through their adherence to regaining all occupied territories."

Dr. Abu Jaber and his Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian counterparts — Farouk Al Sharara, Faris Bouez and Farouk Kaddoumi — also condemned Israel's constant bombardment of South Lebanon and called for an urgent meeting of the Arab League at a senior level to discuss the matter.

"The killing of innocent people in Lebanon is sufficient evidence of Israel's intention to escalate the tension in Israel and the region," Mr. Sharara told the press.

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His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara (second from left), Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez and PLO Political Department head Farouk Kaddoumi

(not in the picture), Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (right) and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber also attended the meeting (Petra photo)

King meets Arab foreign ministers

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday met with the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon and Palestine and reviewed with them Arab coordination in peace talks with Israel.

The meeting was attended by Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and followed a two-day conference of the four

ministers to assess the Middle East peace process and future Arab strategy in negotiations with Israel.

Lebanese message received

In a separate meeting, the King received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, who delivered to him a message from

President Elias Hrawi on bilateral relations and Arab issues.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid also met with Mr. Bouez and discussed Israeli air raids against Lebanon.

Jordan has supported Lebanon's call for an urgent Arab League meeting to discuss the attacks.

Jordan honours 17 artists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday honoured 17 distinguished Jordanian and Arab artists, whose contribution to the Arab and Jordanian art movement over the last few decades has been remarkable. At a special ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre, Queen Noor presented awards and certificates to these artists. Among the recipients were Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali. Also honoured was the late Princess Fakhrulnissa Zeid, whose award was received by her son Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the chief chamberlain. The annual ceremony is held by the Association of Jordanian Plastic Artists in cooperation with the ministries of tourism and antiquities and culture. The ceremony comes as part of Jordan's celebrations of Independence Day. It is also a unique effort to acknowledge the works of Jordanian, Syrian, Palestinian, Lebanese and Iraqi artists.

Chirac to consult Mubarak on Lockerbie

CAIRO (R) — Leading French opposition figure Jacques Chirac flew into Cairo on Sunday to consult President Hosni Mubarak on the Lockerbie crisis involving Libya and the West. "I will meet President Hosni Mubarak to find out his opinions on a number of international issues... including (the Lockerbie crisis)," Mr. Chirac, former prime minister and currently mayor of Paris, told reporters at Cairo airport. Egypt has maintained constant contacts with Tripoli over U.N. sanctions imposed on Libya following charges by Britain, the United States and Britain that it was refusing to cooperate in investigations of two airliner bombings.

Pakistan withholds 'foreign hand'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan said on Sunday it had evidence that a "foreign hand" was assisting subversives in its troubled southern province of Sind, but would not make it public at this stage. Pakistan earlier accused India of sending saboteurs to Sind, where Islamabad ordered an anti-crime military crackdown last week. "Pakistan has evidence of cross-border activity in Sind but we have chosen not to make it public," Hussein Haqani, a spokesman for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, told reporters. "We will not make public the evidence in the form of identification of infiltration routes and training camps (across the border) as we do not want to deteriorate relations with neighbours."

Falangists elect chief today

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's largest Christian political party, the Falange, will hold a leadership election on Monday, political sources said on Sunday. The current party president, moderate George Saadeh, is being challenged by hardliner Samir Geagea, chief of the Lebanese Forces (LF). Political sources said the race appeared very close. Mr. Saadeh is minister of post and communications minister in the government of President Elias Hrawi. He says he would work to reunify party ranks and gain a bigger role for the party at national level.

'KGB spying on eastern Germany'

BONN (R) — A top German intelligence official said on Sunday Russian KGB agents had infiltrated the police and other security forces in the former East Germany and were still spying for Moscow. Bernd Schmiedbauer, a chancellery minister in charge of coordinating Germany's secret services, said he would visit Moscow this month to ask Russian President Boris Yeltsin to withdraw agents from eastern Germany. "Now that the East-West conflict is over, such intelligence operations should not be going on in our territory," Mr. Schmiedbauer said on television. "We must speak very openly with the Russian leadership about what we have established," he added, saying eastern Germany was full of former East German and Soviet agents and double agents.

Israel detains peace marchers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Police on Sunday detained some 100 American, European and Israeli peace activists after they tried to break through a police roadblock to reach an anti-occupation rally in the West Bank, organisers said. No one was hurt.

In Khan Yunis in Gaza, members of the parliamentary border police shot and seriously wounded two Palestinians after they got out of their car allegedly brandishing guns during a surprise ID check, the army said.

Also Sunday, the army enforced its closure of the Gaza Strip for a 14th day, barring some 700,000 Palestinians from entering Israel.

The peace activists are detained on a road in northern Israel, just metres away from the green line that separates Israel from the West Bank, said marcher Byrne Aisling of Letchworth, England.

The marchers were from a coalition of Israeli and international peace groups calling for an end to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the establishment of a Palestinian state and respect for human rights.

"Those who were arrested undertook their action because they believed it was crucial to the walk to cross over to where Palestinians live and to bear that their needs and concerns are living under occupation," said Kathy Kelly, coordinator of the U.S. contingent.

The marchers had tried to reach a West Bank village for an anti-occupation rally, but some 200 police blocked their way on the green line, Ms. Aisling said.

An army official said the group was barred from entering the West Bank for fear their presence would stir up violence.

Police ordered the marchers to disperse, but they continued walking, singing "Give peace a chance" and chanting "The whole world is watching," Ms. Aisling said.

Demonstrators were pushed back by police on horseback or dragged away by police on foot, she said.

About 100 people were detained, including some 40 Americans and a Belgian member of parliament, Michel Maertens, she said.

The group is in Israel for a week of protests to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the 1967 Middle East war.

Earlier Sunday, the demonstrators staged a vigil outside Megiddo prison in northern Israel. Protesters wore black hoods or taped their mouths shut to show the mistreatment of Palestinians held for anti-Israeli activities.

Hamas and Fateh to cooperate, study Islamist merger with PLO

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) — Rival Palestinian groups Hamas and Fateh have agreed to end their feuding and work together in the Israeli-occupied territories against Israeli occupation.

The agreement was announced in a leaflet distributed on Sunday in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and signed by the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas organisation and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) main wing, Fateh.

The two groups, which have worked independently, often at cross purposes since the start of the Palestinian uprising in December, 1987, agreed to form a joint steering committee "in order to unite efforts against the occupation forces."

The two movements see that there is no justification to having

misunderstandings develop into conflict between them. Both groups will be committed to avoiding mutual recriminations," the leaflet said.

Hamas and Fateh, who together command support of most residents in the occupied territories, have basic political and strategic differences.

Hamas has opposed the Arab-Israeli peace talks and advocates the creation of a Palestinian state in place of Israel. Fateh supports the talks and is willing to accept territorial compromise with Israel.

The two groups have at times battled each other in the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources said the agreement was negotiated over a long period between members of the two groups both in the Israeli-

occupied territories and abroad. The issue of peace talks was purposely left out of negotiations over the agreement, Palestinians said.

A member of the Palestinian negotiating team to the peace talks with Israel who preferred not to be named said the agreement was long overdue.

"I kept telling the Fateh leadership to reach an agreement with Hamas. Fateh can do nothing without cooperation with Hamas," he said.

The two groups also agreed to begin negotiations over a merger between Hamas and the PLO, the leaflet said.

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Captors' demands unlikely to block release of German hostages in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — A last-minute demand by kidnappers of two German aid workers, the last Western hostages in Lebanon, is unlikely to block their release, pro-Iranian sources said on Sunday.

"We don't view the statement as a setback to efforts aimed at winning the freedom of the Germans," one source told Reuters.

"To the contrary, the statement includes positive points."

In a statement sent to an international news agency on Saturday, the kidnappers said they were cooperating with a drive to win the release of aid workers Heinrich Struëbig and Thomas Kempner but demanded more assurances.

They said they still wanted progress on their demand that

Bonn set free two brothers serving jail sentences in Germany.

The source said the statement "has not changed the positive climate surrounding the issue and we remain optimistic." But he refused to say when the hostages would be freed, saying any talk of dates was "mere speculation."

Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said Saturday he was confident the German hostages, captured in South Lebanon in May 1989, would be freed within days despite technical problems.

"I am confident that the decision to release the hostages has been taken and some technical matters would not need more than days in order to reach a solution that makes everyone happy and achieves a release of the hostages," he said.

The captors' two-page statement was accompanied by a photograph of Mr. Struëbig, bearded and wearing a white undershirt.

Using the name of Freedom Strugglers, the kidnappers said mediators, especially the Lebanese government, Syria and Iran, had made "relentless efforts" to end the problem of the Germans.

"We announce our full cooperation with these efforts and the issue is moving in a reasonable mechanism within the framework of a positive solution to arrive at what pleases everyone."

"The release will be after the assurances are completed because we have learned from the

territory which means that they will elect from themselves, by themselves, representation for the negotiations..." the former prime minister said in an interview in Tel Aviv.

"And the third issue of course is to do it as quickly as possible, not to rush, not to give in what is vital to Israel."

Mr. Rabin said talks should focus on Palestinians in the occupied territories.

There was no purpose in talking to Jordan, as Israel has been doing in the Mideast peace talks that began in Madrid last year, because they'll wait and see what are the results of our negotiations with the Palestinians," he said.

Mr. Rabin said, "I don't believe that the Syrians are ready to say 'Yes' to peace with Israel or

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After 25 years some Palestinians long for Jordan

By Sami Aboudi

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank (R) — Israel's celebrations this month of its lightning conquests in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war mean little for Palestinians like Emile Toubasi.

But the anniversary of Israel's capture of his West Bank home has started the 61-year-old pharmacist and other older Palestinians reminiscing about an easier life under Jordan.

"They sure were days of safety and security. One could have a good night's sleep without worrying about anything," said Mr. Toubasi, who fled to the West Bank town of Ramallah from Jaffa in the first Arab-

Israeli war in 1948. Israel later incorporated Jaffa into Tel Aviv, just to the north.

After 25 years of Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and four years of a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule, Mr. Toubasi and other Palestinians are nostalgic for a past that most of the population cannot remember.

"Nowadays, we feel under threat all the time, day and night. We feel as if we are aliens in our own country," he said.

Israeli rule has nurtured a new sense of Palestinian identity and created a strong desire for independence.

But the long years of suffering have brought a pragmatic approach. Many Palestinians

who traditionally challenged Jordan's 1950 union with the West Bank, now say they favour future ties with Amman.

"There are historical ties between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples which are not subject to decisions. This makes the option of a future confederation feasible," said Ali Abu Hilal, a former leader in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"This union must be between two equals to make it last."

Dr. Mamdouh Al Aker, a Palestinian peace negotiator with Israel, who reflects the views of the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said: "What we want

first of all and as a priority is an end to Israeli occupation and to allow our people a chance to exercise their right to self-determination."

Since they came under Israeli occupation Palestinians have resisted Israel's efforts to reach an agreement with Amman to return the West Bank under what was known as the "Jordanian option."

The "Jordanian option," which proposed some sort of union between a Palestinian entity and Amman was shelved when King Hussein severed ties with the West Bank in 1988.

But the option appears to have been retrieved from political obscurity by the first ever direct Arab-Israeli peace talks

which began last October.

The U.S.-brokered talks brought Palestinians and Jordanians closer than ever and PLO officials have been visiting Amman regularly for consultations.

The West Bank, the largest Palestinian territory to remain in Arab hands after the 1948 war, merged with Jordan after a 1950 Palestinian conference in the Jordan Valley town of Jericho called for a union.

Only two countries recognised Jordan's union with the West Bank. The Gaza Strip, a small, densely populated territory along Palestine's southern coast, remained under Egyptian administration until 1967.

(Continued on page 7)

Reagan and Bush administrations considered giving weapons to Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan and Bush administrations seriously considered giving Iraq weapons and ammunition, directly and through other countries, newly declassified documents show.

The proposals appear to have ultimately been scrapped, but Iraq did get U.S. cluster bombs from Saudi Arabia and U.S.-made fuses for artillery shells from Greece, according to the documents.

The State Department released the cables and reports under pressure from Congress. They show repeated consideration of such arms transfers at a time when the United States was leading a worldwide embargo on sales to both combatants in the Iraq-Iran war.

Although publicly neutral since the eight-year war began in September 1980, the United States was clearly tilting towards Iraq to prevent an Iranian victory. In 1985 and 1986, it is now known, the Reagan White House was secretly moving weapons to Iran in a bid to free American hostages held in Lebanon.

The administration, according to the documents, was greatly alarmed at Iraq's response to the startling November 1986 revelation of U.S. sales to Iran of TOW anti-tank and Hawk anti-aircraft missiles. "If we are to retrieve our influence with Iraq ... we must act quickly," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy wrote to Secretary of State George Shultz on Dec. 3.

On Jan. 21, 1987, an internal State Department document weighed the pros and cons of giving Iraq weapons. The foreign assistance act gives the president special authority "to provide military equipment to Iraq" if he determines that "an unforeseen emergency" has occurred, the writers said.

The Iranian siege of the city of Basra could be construed as such an emergency, the writers said. They added, however, that Iraq appeared to have sufficient

Soviet — and European-made weapons although it was not adept at using them. However, the document said, U.S.-made anti-artillery radar would be useful to Iraq.

The document does not give the authors' names. But Allen Holmes, under-secretary of state for politico-military affairs to whom it was addressed, wrote in the margin, "Excellent memo guys."

Two weeks later, Mr. Holmes and Mr. Murphy wrote Mr. Shultz. It was in response to his request for an "assessment of the advisability of shifting U.S. policy to permit the transfer of U.S.-origin weapons to Iraq," and whether the United States should pass such arms through third countries.

"We believe that such a change in policy would be inadvisable and counterproductive," they concluded, despite persistent Iraqi requests for U.S. weapons and ammunition.

They said Iraq would not derive much benefit from the sophisticated weaponry, which would be incompatible with its other weapons, and raised concerns that U.S. arms would make it clear which side Washington was supporting.

The authors said they would be asking Mr. Shultz to make one specific exception to the U.S. policy, but they did not indicate its nature. They may have been referring to an Iraqi request for infrared anti-missile systems for President Saddam Hussein's Boeing and three presidential helicopters.

The sale was eventually approved but placed on hold in 1988 after Iraq allegedly used poison gas against members of its Kurdish minority, documents show.

In July 1989, after President George Bush came to the White House, the State Department again urged that the sale be approved "as a small goodwill gesture." But a department official said last week that it never went through.

The Bush administration, in its first month in office, also suggested expanding ties with Iraq by inviting mid-level officers to attend seminars at the National War College and at courses on military strategy, documents show.

The documents paint a constant search for ways to help oil-rich Iraq.

In a January 1984 cable, the State Department informed Soviet Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld that it was considering a proposal to provide Egypt with additional M-60 tanks so that Egypt could give its Soviet-made T-62 tanks to Iraq. Officials said the deal was eventually scrapped because it was too complicated and politically sensitive.

A November 1986 cable from the U.S. embassy in Baghdad to the State Department discusses the sale to Iraq by a Greek manufacturer of 100,000 artillery shells containing U.S.-made fuses.

"The case recalls the recent problem with U.S. origin cluster bombs supplied inadvertently to Iraq by Saudi Arabia," the cable said.

The administration, responding recently to news reports about the Saudi transfer of 2,000-pound bombs to Iraq, admitted that the Saudis gave Iraq some U.S. weapons "inadvertently" and said it had notified Congress of the mistake in 1986. It did not describe the types of weapons involved.

The 1986 cable advised Washington not to bring up the issue of artillery shells with Iraq "because of the suspicion and sensitivity displayed" by the Iraqi government when the United States asked for the cluster bombs back.

The United States is known to have given Iraq intelligence information about Iran throughout the 1980s. Congressional investigators are also probing whether Iraq might have used U.S. government farm credits during those years to buy weapons instead of food.

Somali groups ask U.N. to send peacekeepers

NAIROBI (R) — Six Somali groups have asked for a United Nations peacekeeping force to be sent to their war-torn country to protect relief food shipments from looters, Radio Mogadishu, monitored here, reported late on Saturday.

The broadcast named the United Somali Congress (USC), the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM), the Somali Democratic Movement (SDM), the Somali Democratic Alliance (SDA), and the United Somali Front (USF) as making the appeal.

In addition to calling for a U.N. force, the six groups appealed to Somalis to "collectively fight the thugs," and demonstrate that they want peacekeeping forces to be deployed in their country.

The call was sent after shipments of relief food, including foods needed to feed starving children, were looted in Mogadishu.

By armed gangs. Numerous armed gangs, some linked to organized political groups, are operating in the Somali capital, which has been extensively damaged by fighting over the last seven months.

The conference, which the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry helped organize, brought together 11 Somali factions but it was not clear how representative they were of the country's many other factions.

The USC was listed as among the groups making the appeal for U.N. assistance, but it is divided and its largest faction, headed by General Mohammed Farah Aided, was not represented.

Gen. Aided refused to agree to a U.N. force and his opposition has prevented the U.N. from implementing a proposal to send a peacekeeping contingent to Somalia.

Radio Mogadishu is controlled by Ali Mahdi Mohammed, the interim president of Somalia, whose USC faction holds part of Mogadishu, while Gen. Aided's faction controls a much larger area.

The six groups were among 11 Somali organizations which ended a week's conference in neighboring Ethiopia on Saturday, and announced they had agreed on a truce to enable relief food to reach famine victims in Somalia.

In Abu Dhabi, Somalia's interim Prime Minister Omar Arteh Khalif said his war-racked country needed peacekeeping to help distribute future aid shipments and restore order.

Mr. Khalif told Reuters Somalia also needed foreign troops to bolster its army and police after food and medical aid was stolen before it could reach starving civilians.

Armed guards paid to look after Red Cross and U.N. relief supplies last week looked a plane carrying food and drugs at Mogadishu airport. They belonged to the rival clans which overthrew dictator Mohammed Siad Barre and then splintered into rival groups, setting off a 15-month-old civil war.

A U.N. chartered ship carrying 7,000 tonnes of wheat to feed some of the estimated three million famine victims docked at Mogadishu on Sunday. A U.N. official there said armed groups in the port area had given assurances the food would be protected and distributed to the needy.

However, Mr. Khalif said less than one-third of Somalia's 60,000 troops, who scattered and joined rival tribes after Mr. Siad Barre was ousted, could be mustered into an interim force to restore order.

Syria says smear campaign linking it to terrorism

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — Syria on Sunday said it had no connection with Syrian arms dealer Monzer Al Kassab, linked in the press to the Lockerbie bombing, and rejected reports connecting Syria with terrorism.

"To link the name of that person with Syria is absolutely unacceptable and in fact reveals a sinister intention," Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told reporters in Damascus's first official comment on Mr. Kassab's arrest last week in Madrid.

Spanish police said on Thursday they had arrested the Syrian-born Kassab on suspicion of international terrorism and illegal possession of arms.

U.S.-based Time magazine said a four-month investigation indicated Mr. Kassab was connected with the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

Mr. Kassab has denied the report and sources close to the Spanish investigation told Reuters a six-month probe turned up nothing to link him to the Lockerbie bombing.

Spanish police said they also arrested Beirut-born Nabil Olabi Dasuki and Chilean-born Yamal

Edgardo Bathich, who also holds a Syrian passport.

"The aforementioned name (Mr. Kassab) as far as I know has an Argentinian passport. Even if he had a Syrian passport he has been arrested and he should be brought to trial and we have nothing against that," Mr. Sharaa said.

"I wonder why certain press reports link the name of Syria with such an offence (allegedly) committed by an ex-person like the one you have mentioned," Mr. Sharaa said.

The United States and Britain have accused two Libyans of the bombing and have won U.N. Security Council sanctions on Tripoli in an attempt to force it to turn over the suspects.

Syria, which has moved closer to the West since its participation in the U.S.-led alliance which drove Iraq from Kuwait last year, remains on Washington's list of countries the United States believes sponsors terrorism.

States on the list are ineligible for preferential trade relations with the United States and trade credits.

Damascus, which has also helped gain the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon, argues that it has not been directly involved for years in what the U.S. regards as terrorism.

Anarchy is the rule in independent Afghanistan

KABUL (AP) — In the independent Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, chaos has become the order of the day and anarchy the king of the night.

As this war-weary country prepares to enter the second phase of an uncharted transition from communist to Islamic rule, uncertainty and apprehension have replaced jubilation and euphoria.

The month-old caretaker government that rose from the ashes of 14 years of Soviet domination commands little influence in the capital and virtually no authority beyond the snow-streaked mountains that ring the city.

Ineffective and divided, the new leadership is powerless against the well-armed warlords who have carved out fiefdoms in the countryside and whose laws are made at gunpoint.

Kabul has no police to patrol the streets, and Afghanistan has had no army since caretaker President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi ordered its demobilisation.

At sunset the city resembles a ghost town as residents retreat behind the fortress-like walls that surround their homes. A decade-long night curfew remains in effect.

With no central security, bandits roam and loot at will, often targeting foreign embassies and residences. Some have taken over the homes of expatriates who fled in April when rival rebel groups battled for domination of Kabul.

"Every society has its thieves and robbers," said commander Muslim, a senior Defence Ministry official. "Ours is no different."

"Yes there's chaos, yes there's disorder. But it's no worse than Los Angeles," he said.

Afghanistan's Islamic leaders confidently predict order will soon be restored to the city, which saw at least 270 people killed and hundreds of buildings destroyed in the violent aftermath of President Najibullah's ouster.

Life changed almost overnight for Kabul's 1.5 million people as the new leadership sought to root out the last vestiges of Soviet influence and impose Islamic law.

Five times a day, the cry of "Allahu Akbar" reverberates from mosque loudspeakers. Prayer is mandatory for all civil servants — especially those who served the toppled regime.

Religious zealots have smashed thousands of bottles of Russian vodka and other spirits, and burned tons of communist literature and art. Women accustomed to Western-style dress must cover their heads and boys and girls now attend separate classes.

People no longer live in fear of the whistling rebel rockets that for years randomly rained destruction on the city. But there are still unsettling reminders of that bloody, turbulent period.

Tanks and armoured vehicles, loaded with gun-packing rebels and flying the green flag of Islam still race through the streets by day, and streams of red and green tracer bullets light the night sky.

The guerrillas who have known nothing but war have become bored with peace. At Kabul's hospitals, doctors say they treat dozens of people hurt by what has become known as "happy fire."

The relative peace in Afghanistan's capital is due largely to an agreement between Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, chief of the radical Hezb-e-Islami faction, and his long-time rival, Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud.

The pact, reached last week, calls for the resolution of the country's political crisis with national elections within six months and the withdrawal of militia loyal to General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Gen. Dostum engineered the ouster of Mr. Najibullah's government, then kept Mr. Hekmatyar's fighters from seizing Kabul.

But many fear the agreement is doomed to failure. Some rebel leaders oppose elections as either unworkable or un-Islamic.

Gen. Dostum, a strapping militia commander who has been compared to Genghis Khan, says he — and not the interim government — will decide when his forces leave the city and return to their base in northern Afghanistan.

The pact is also threatened by the refusal of an Iranian-backed coalition of eight Shiite parties to support the interim government unless it is given at least eight ministerial and vice-ministerial portfolios.

Known as Hezb-e-Wahdat, the grouping is occupying 140 key government buildings which have been adorned with huge portraits of Iran's late Ayatollah Khomeini.

Bilaterals to resume after June 23

(Continued from page 1)

Syrian forces deployed in Lebanon under an Arab League mandate has opened fire against Israeli warplanes at least three times since May 19, raising fears that the two adversaries might go to war.

However Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said last week that his country would not strike first and will fight only if attacked first.

Mr. Sharaa told Sunday's press conference: "Syria is not seeking confrontation, ... is not seeking war, but if the Israeli government is going to impose war on us we will defend ourselves... we will not sit idle."

FLO spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo, who also participated in the talks, said he hoped that the proposed Arab League meeting would open the way for wide-ranging Arab discussions to open a new chapter in inter-Arab relations in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Mr. Abed Rabbo also called on the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the peace talks, to supervise "comprehensive" elections planned for the West Bank and Gaza.

"We will ask the co-sponsors of the peace talks to assume their responsibilities and supervise these elections" before October this year, Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

Drawing a parallel to the international supervision of the Kurdish elections in northern Iraq in May, Mr. Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, said: "If international forces enabled the Kurds in the north of Iraq to have elections under international supervision, then why not have international supervision in the occupied territories ... and enable the peace process to move forward?"

Israel has said it would allow for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to hold municipal elections, but argues that the issue of legislative elections should be put off until the "final phase" of the peace process. In the meantime, it continues to issue statements denying the Palestinians a role in the destiny of their land, resources and legislation.

The Palestinians and Arab countries have rejected elections that would allow Palestinians self-rule devoid of land.

The Palestinians are drafting a law which would allow for a one-person one-vote election system, said Mr. Hussein, overall leader of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks with Israel.

"We are preparing for a transfer of authority before the end of the year, with election plans in full gear," Mr. Hussein told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Hussein, who is a native of Jerusalem, accused Likud of using anti-Arab violence in the occupied territories and Lebanon as a part of its reelection campaign.

Mr. Abed Rabbo urged Israeli voters to choose the party most likely to negotiate a lasting and equitable peace in the region.

"Their votes will determine if the region will move towards peace or if we move towards a deadlock that will kill this historic opportunity for peace," he said, alluding to signals from the Likud Bloc's main rival, the Labour Party, that it might be willing for a territorial compromise with the Arabs which Likud rules out.

The four Arab foreign ministers condemned Israel for attempts to thwart the peace process through its escalated violation of Palestinian human rights and its almost daily bombardments of southern Lebanon.

They called "on the co-sponsors of the peace talks to pressure Israel to commit itself to the peace process and to stop Israel's aggressive practices against the Palestinians under occupation and the people of South Lebanon."

The foreign ministers also called on Israel to "stop sabotaging the peace process."

Another meeting of the four foreign ministers will be held in Damascus after the Israeli elections and before the beginning of the sixth round of bilaterals, Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials said.

The Amman meeting reiterated that settlements in the occupied territories are illegal and obstacles to peace.

The final communiqué also stressed that Muslim and Christian rights to worship in Holy Jerusalem were inalienable and that Israel must respect them.

The final statement warned of attempts to falsify the city at the expense of Muslim and Christian holy sites.

The solution is clear: There is no choice but for sincere intentions for an exchange... The Lebanese government is keen to see the Germans freed to unlock a \$120-million European Community aid package and attract other Western aid and investment for war reconstruction.

The kidnappers rejected what they said was a link between aid and releasing the Germans and again accused them of being Israeli spies.

Shortly before Saturday's statement, pro-Iranian sources in Beirut said that members of the Hamadi family were in Tehran discussing the fate of the two Germans with officials.

Lessons of the past," it added. Mr. Struëbig, 51, and Mr. Kempton, 31, are held by followers of Abdul Hadi Hamadi, security chief of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah and elder brother of Mohammad Ali and Abbas Hamadi jailed in Germany.

Abdul Hadi Hamadi has demanded that Germany release his two brothers in exchange for the two German hostages. Bonn has repeatedly rejected making any deal to secure their release.

The statement said: "The fixed formula is as always: No release unless we reach a tangible result for the issue of the struggles of Mohammad and Abbas Hamadi."

"All different speculations are meaningless... the framework of

emerging from the general election to start negotiations on forming a new federal coalition government," a presidential official said.

Mr. Meciar's HZDS, which looked set to win some 33 per cent of the vote in Slovakia with a few results still to come, became the second biggest party in the federal parliament.

The HZDS also fell only just short of an outright majority in the Slovak National Council (regional parliament) where it has promised to declare Slovak sovereignty and take other steps towards independence.

Mr. Meciar said he did not rule

Sudan says more than 700 rebels surrender

KHARTOUM (AP) — More than 700 rebels have surrendered with their arms and ammunition in the southern equatorial region, an army spokesman says.

Since the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) suffered from an internal power struggle last August and lost its major backer in Ethiopia, the government has been reporting the surrender of tens of thousands of rebels. There is no way to independently confirm the reports because of government restrictions on travel in the war-torn south.

The army spokesman Mohammad Abdullahi Owaid, told the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) that the 700 rebels surrendered on Saturday.

The government has been gathering money to support the surrendering rebels who are said to be suffering from hunger and exposure.

He said they were convinced it was "a total loss to remain with the rebel movement and its unjust and failing leadership."

The latest reported surrenders came a few days after a round of peace talks between the government, the SPLA and a splinter rebel group, adjourned in Nigeria. The three sides agreed to meet again in the future.

The mainly Christian and animist SPLA took up arms against the Muslim majority government in 1983.

Egypt steps up crackdown on Muslim fundamentalism

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is cracking down on a previously tolerated Muslim group to prevent the spread of Muslim fundamentalism, diplomats and analysts say.

Police have arrested suspected fundamentalists almost daily in recent weeks after an upsurge of violent attacks on security forces and Egypt's Christian majority.

But most of those seized were members of the outlawed "Jihad" organisation or other smaller but violent Muslim groups.

Diplomats say the arrest of Friday of Muslim Brotherhood members was different because it targeted a movement which the government had long allowed to operate freely.

"It has the hallmarks of a campaign... it looks like a declaration of intent," a senior Western diplomat said.

Interior Minister Abdul-Halim Musa said in remarks published on Sunday that 50 people had been arrested in the eastern Delta town of Zagazig for belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood, ending the government's tacit tolerance of the group.

Calling the group "an unrecognised religious party," he said it was printing leaflets aimed at stirring unrest and religious tension, the semi-official newspaper, Al-Ahram, reported.

The Muslim Brotherhood said those arrested belonged to the group but denied the other charges.

Analysts say confrontation with the Brotherhood, which was blamed for the assassination of

Egyptian politicians in the 1940s, but renounced violence in the 1970s, had been looming since Muslim fundamentalists nearly won power through the ballot box in Algeria six months ago.

"It changed after Algeria," said Fehmi Hawaidi, a commentator on Islamic affairs. "The relationship between the government and the Muslim Brotherhood has become tougher."

The government has also felt threatened by rising sectarian strife. Earlier this month, Muslim extremists killed 12 Christians in the worst incident for a decade.

Sweeping raids involving dozens of arrests have become common in traditional strongholds of Islamic groups which oppose the government by force.

In February, security forces arrested Muslim Brotherhood members in a computer company which the government said was involved in an international conspiracy to overthrow it. A court later dropped charges against them.

Egypt is a limited democracy with registration of parties in the hands of the government. The authorities banned the Muslim Brotherhood, which was founded in 1928, but traditionally allowed it to operate in conventional politics.

Members and sympathisers have run for parliament with legitimate political parties, taken control of some professional unions, run a newspaper and organised fundraising.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 72311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Le Jeu des animaux
18:10 Le Monde Sous Marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau

19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:00 Close to Home
21:10 Capital City
22:00 News in English
22:20 News in Gold

PRAYER TIMES

05:51 Fajr
06:25 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:34 Dhuhr
16:14 Asr
19:42 Maghrib
21:16 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetileh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Tournaise Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772361
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair and windy will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17 / 29
Aqaba 23 / 36
Djers 12 / 22
Jordan Valley 22 / 35
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 29, Aqaba 36. Humidity reading: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Jabali 740740
Dr. Ahmad Dababneh 791257
Dr. Walid Sabawneh 779997
Dr. Salman Daboubi 776751
Firm pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 675055
Naikouh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsat pharmacy 657660

IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Baker 121
Al. Sharaa pharmacy (278525)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Fadel (—)

EMERGENCIES

Home News

Jordan and Yemen sign agreement on energy

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemen and Jordan Sunday signed an agreement paving the way for cooperation in research and studies in energy-related technology like renewable energy and means of energy preservation.

Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary-General Asem Ghosheh said that the agreement also provides for the manufacturing of spare parts needed for equipment used in renewable energy and marketing these spare parts abroad.

He said that the two sides agreed on giving due attention to joint coordination in benefiting from foreign expertise and from United Nations agencies dealing with such endeavours.

The agreement signed by the two sides aims to bolster Yemeni-Jordanian cooperation in renewable energy research like the utilisation of wind and solar power, thermal insulation and geothermal energy resources, said Mr. Ghosheh.

He said that the agreement provides for the exchange of expert visits, the organising of joint conferences and seminars and the cooperation of recruiting and training cadres working in energy-related fields.

Mr. Ghosheh signed the agreement with visiting Deputy Minister of Electricity and Water in Yemen Mohammed Abdul Alim Alwan. Mr. Alwan had visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) during his visit to Jordan and inspected units working on solar and wind energy technology. He announced that Yemen was hoping to benefit from Jordan's experiences in these fields.

South Korea to grant \$10m for sewerage, water projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — South Korea is granting Jordan a \$10 million soft loan to help it finance a sewerage project and a wastewater treatment plant at Wadi Seer, near Amman.

The two sides signed memoranda at the Ministry of Planning Sunday to this effect and said that the loan will be forthcoming through the South Korean Import/Export Bank and that a

Water network studies underway — minister

TAFILEH (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar Sunday paid an inspection visit to Tafleth Governorate and announced that studies are underway for modernising the water networks in the Kingdom and for searching out new water resources.

The Water and Irrigation Ministry is giving due attention to the water problems in the country and is also planning to set up more earth dams to collect more rain water for expanding irrigated lands, noted the minister in a statement at a meeting held at the governor's office.

At the same time, the minister noted that ministry is dealing with weakness in its technical teams so as to ensure fair distribution of water to all subscribers in all

regions. Referring to the water resources in Tafleth area, he said that the Shobak Well, which has been providing water, was found not sufficient and the Water Authority is now providing additional quantities of water from Ayour and Zeideh regions.

He announced that a new water network will be laid for the Tafleth region and that more water supplies will reach the villages of Arhaba, Ghemeh and Asiaah. He said that a dam will be set up at Shatim in the coming year and earth dams will be built at wadis to collect water in the eastern regions of the governorate.

In view of the shortage of drinking water, he said that the ministry has now brought in new

pumps to be installed at the Tafleth water springs and new additional water tanks have been supplied to carry the water.

Dr. Abdullah Akaleh and Ibrahim Ghababsheh, Parliament members from the Tafleth Constituency, demanded at the meeting that more water supplies reach the Tafleth area and that technical teams should double their efforts to provide water to population settlements in the Tafleth area.

Earlier, Governor Khaled Bawazir reviewed the general water situation in Tafleth and problems facing the local residents as a result of the water shortages. He also called for the replacement of the old water networks with new ones and for the repair of irrigation canals.

Companies defend decision to raise price of boxes used in manufacturing

AMMAN — Six Jordanian companies manufacturing polystyrene boxes used in the packaging and transporting of cucumbers and other vegetables Sunday published a statement defending their decision to raise the price of each box from 18 piasters to 24 piasters a piece and giving clarifications to some points attributed to have been raised by Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour in this regard.

The statement, published in the daily press, noted that the minister was quoted as saying that the six companies had raised the price by 70 per cent from 14 piasters to 23 piasters whereas the true figures are from 18 to 24.

It should be noted that in view of last winter's weather conditions, which caused extensive damage to the crops in the Jordan Valley, the farmers' demand on the boxes declined, causing severe damage to the six manufacturing companies, said the statement.

The materials used in the manufacturing of these boxes have an expiration date, after which they can be of no use, explained the statement.

In view of the poor demand on the boxes during the past winter season, the prices declined to 18 piasters for a box, subsequently causing severe damage to the companies interest, said the statement.

It said that in view of this situation, there was an urgent need to examine the prices of these boxes and the decision was made to raise the price to 24 piasters a piece.

With reference to the minister's alleged statement that the six firms were trying to deprive the farmers of their efforts by increasing the boxes' prices, the six firms would like to point out that they had invested in this industry in order to provide service to the national economy and the local farmers, noted the statement. It said that before the

polystyrene boxes, farmers used to employ wooden crates and boxes which were bought in hard currency from abroad for at least 50 piasters a box. The polystyrene box has a better appearance with a better quality, sold at a lower price, providing better protection to the transported vegetables and protection from the decay for a longer period during their transport to be sold abroad, the statement noted.

The statement said that the six manufacturers hope that the Ministry of Industry and Trade would support this industry since it saves the country a "fortune."

The six manufacturers would like to draw the minister's attention to the fact that the ministry was fed with inaccurate information about the polystyrene boxes and that the ministry had overlooked these factors, namely marketing bottlenecks, inputs and boxes' prices when discussing this problem. (J.T.)

Education minister lays foundation stone for hospital

DEIR ABI SAEED (Petra) — Deputy Premier and Education Minister Thawqan al Hindawi Sunday laid the foundation stone for a hospital to be set up here at the cost of JD 2.9 million to serve 70,000 inhabitants.

Work on the hospital to be set up on a 50 dunum plot of land was expected to be completed by 1994, according to Health Ministry sources. They said that the

54-bed hospital will have operation theatres, wings for emergency services, a unit for gynaecology and obstetrics, a paediatrics unit and an intensive care unit.

Mr. Hindawi also laid the foundation stone for a boys school at Kufur Awan which will cost JD 57,000 and another at Kufur Rakeb, expected to cost JD 563,000.

Jordan to provide relief supplies to Somali war, drought victims

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday announced plans to despatch relief supplies to the victims of the civil war in Somalia and said that contacts are underway to find means to channel the supplies with help from other countries and international organisations.

A statement by the Jordanian Hashemite Charitable Organisation (JHCO) said that in view of the deteriorating economic, social and health conditions in Somalia as a result of the civil war, coupled with the severe drought which has affected the country, the Somali people have been stricken with epidemics, hunger and other illnesses causing numerous deaths.

The organisation said that it has prepared plans to cooperate with Arab and Islamic countries to execute a programme providing urgent relief supplies to the Somali people to alleviate their sufferings and to reduce the mortality rates among them. The announcement was made by the organisation's director general, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who said that the relief supplies will comprise food, medicine, clothes, tents and blankets.

He said that in view of the difficult security situation in Somalia, the organisation was in close contact with various humanitarian organisations and U.N. agencies to ensure the channelling of the relief supplies to the destitute people.

The deteriorating situation in Somalia was the main concern of officials from five states in the drought-stricken Horn of Africa who opened talks last week in Addis Ababa to deliver food aid to hundreds of thousands made destitute by the Somali civil war.

Relief agencies are worried, according to Reuters, that lawlessness coupled with the worst drought in 100 years could kill tens of thousands in Somalia unless ways are found to deliver food.

Reuters, reporting from the

Ethiopian capital, has said that at least 30,000 people are thought to have been killed in Mogadishu alone since Somalia plunged into anarchy 16 months after President Mohammed Siad Barre was ousted and victorious rebel groups turned on each other to control the country.

Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the organisation realises the immense difficulties in implementing its relief programme to Somalia under the present circumstances and it is therefore contacting other countries to ensure the despatch of these supplies through Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti by land and sea.

Dr. Abbadi appealed to the Jordanian people to extend all possible assistance to the Somali people who, he said, are facing death due to hunger, diseases and the civil war.

The United Nations, which has several agencies operating in Somalia, has said it wishes to establish corridors of peace through relief organisations which could channel urgently needed supplies.

Referring to other projects undertaken by the organisation, Dr. Abbadi said that the organisation's board of trustees has decided to conduct relief operations at the international level with a view to bolstering Jordan's relations with the outside world and with international organisations.

He said that the organisation has worked out an executive plan to prepare teams to serve with them. These teams will be given full training on how to deal with distribution of supplies and provide help to people in stricken areas to be carried out in cooperation with other international organisations, said Dr. Abbadi.

By so doing, the organisation will be giving more young men and women the chance to be employed and to offer useful and humanitarian services to other people in the Arab and Islamic



Victims of famine

worlds, said Dr. Abbadi.

Another project is that of opening centres to teach Arabic to non-Arab Muslims and Jordanian volunteers will be needed to help in this affair, said Dr. Abbadi. He said that the organisation was trying to secure financial assistance to implement this project from the Islamic Bank and other Islamic organisations.

Dr. Abbadi recalled Jordan's vital assistance to the Sudanese people some years ago, noting that Jordanian teams provided relief supplies and built infrastructures in a number of areas enabling the drought-stricken

people to resume their normal life. He said that the Islamic Bank provided \$2 million that was spent on these projects with most of the items provided from Jordanian markets.

Dr. Abbadi said that recently the organisation received a \$500,000 donation in medical equipment and medicines, part of which was distributed to Jordanian hospitals. He said part of this aid will be dispatched to Somalia.

The organisation, formerly known as the National Committee for Solidarity with the Sudanese People, has been in operation since 1990.

ACC releases annual report

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) granted loans worth JD 10.5 million in 1991, compared with JD 7.5 million in 1990, according to the ACC annual report.

The report said that a total of 3,868 borrowers benefited from the loans offered by the corporation, against 5,279 borrowers in 1990.

Over the past three years, there was a great demand by farmers for loans from the corporation, the report said.

The rate of first-time borrowers averaged 63 per cent of the total number of borrowers.

The report pointed out that the recovery rate of loans in 1991 was 67 per cent, against 66 per cent in 1990.

This, the report said, reflects the serious efforts by the corporation to recover its debts and the farmers' encouraging response and interest in settling their debts.

The outstanding loans of the ACC amounted to JD 41.6 million in 1991, compared with JD 36.6 million in 1990, thus achieving an increase of 13.7 per cent over the 1990 figures.

Private business to open nursing home

By Raghad Azzideh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the first time in Jordan, a private business is opening a nursing home for the elderly at a fee of 300 Jordanian dinars per month.

So far, this venture has only been undertaken by either the government or charitable organisations. However, due to the sensitivity of the issue in a society still bound by strong family ties, confidentiality concerning the residents is a vital issue.

Jordan Times met the director general of the establishment, Al Haditha nursing home, Zuhair Al Omari, who explained that nowadays life has necessitated opening such centres. He said, "The idea is a strange one to us. People fear found out that they have sent their aging parents away because it reflects disloyalty and lack of care on their part to their parents or family members." He added, "People come and ask many questions and badly need our help, yet they cannot put up with the consequences."

The essence of the matter is,

Mr. Al Omari explained, that old people need special care and attention. In Al Haditha nursing home, they do not cater to the sick, but rather to those who cannot look after themselves due to age and whose needs go beyond the norm, thereby demanding special care. He said, "For example, due to age, some old people lose track of time or place or people and behave in an unusual manner. For example, they might wander in the streets or they might hurt themselves when lighting a fire and so on. We do everything for them. The nurses here look after all their needs 24 hours a day. There is a cook experienced in dietary restrictions for the residents."

'Real Home'
The nursing home is situated in a friendly, middle class residential area. It is a one floor house with a small garden on the sides. The house itself is like any average Jordanian house, modestly built and furnished. The sitting room is L-shaped and of a fair size with a coloured TV set, a dining table and chairs. The bed-

rooms are simply furnished with two beds in each room. Bathrooms are clean and reasonably sized. The carpeting is modest but clean. Mr. Al Omari said, "We aim in every way to be a substitute 'home.' We want them to feel comfortable and safe. I refuse to have a sign put on the house — because I don't want the families to feel it is an institution."

Future Plans
Confident of the future, Mr. Al Omari said that they are hoping by next year to accommodate around 26 elderly persons. They are going to extend the building and build on the roof. He said, "At the moment we can take up to 7 people only." He added, "Plans for the future involve having a day-care centre whereby old people can come for the daytime only and sleep at home. We will give them three meals and accept them as half board. This programme, I think, will be more successful due to public mentality and the fact that their older members of the family will remain at home and still get the care and attention they need."

Speaker meets with French delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat Sunday received visiting French delegation, headed by Jean Paul Fuchs, deputy chairman of the Cultural and Family Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly, and discussed with him cultural relations.

Dr. Arabiyat and Mr. Fuchs stressed the need for enhancing cultural relations by establishing specialised centres entrusted with promoting cultural information about both countries and encouraging the teaching of Arabic and French in both France and Jordan.

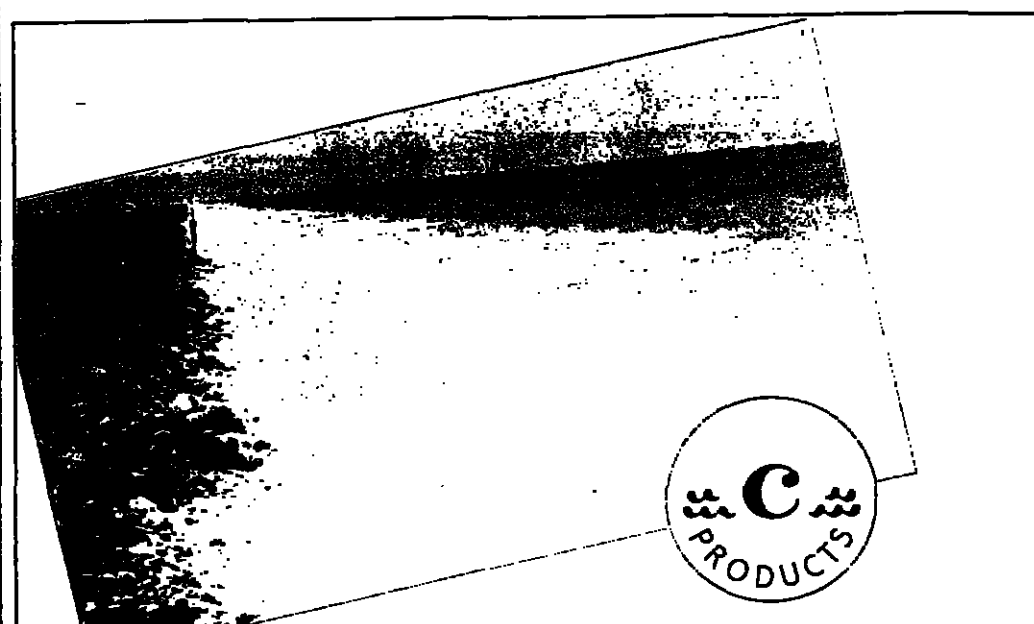
The two officials also stressed the need for reviving the French Jordanian Friendship Society.

Government to absorb surplus

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh Sunday reaffirmed the government's keenness to take all the necessary measures to absorb the surplus of local agricultural produce for this season, especially tomatoes.

The minister, who chaired a meeting for a committee entrusted with assessing credits at the Cooperative Bank, said that these measures include selling the surplus of tomato produce to local tomato paste factories and finding new foreign markets.

He said the tomato paste factory in Arida Saturday received 900 tonnes of tomatoes, while 1,200 tonnes were exported and 700 tonnes were absorbed by Amman central markets.



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WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafe' Nasri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by 40 Jordanian artists entitled "An Artist and a Painting" at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Issam Tantawi at the Phoenix Gallery for Experimental Arts.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Beatrice Pina at the French Cultural Centre.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

GUVS takes part in course

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies is taking part in a nine-day training course on management of non-governmental organisations. Representing GUVS at the meeting, being held in Salzburg, Austria, is Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, president of GUVS Executive Board, who left Amman Sunday for Vienna. Dr. Khatib will brief the course on Jordan's experience in the field of voluntary work and will meet with a number of voluntary work leaders.

Nature society opens new branch

FUHEIS (Petra) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Sunday opened a new branch in Fuheis at the request of Fuheis residents. A constituent assembly for the branch was elected Sunday, with Adeb Alkroush as chairman, Youssef Abu Dayyeh as rapporteur, Fares Dawoud as treasurer and Farouq Jreizat and Mohammad Madi as members.

Industry chairman thanks King

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khalidoun Abu Hassan has voiced appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein for inaugurating the industrial exhibition at Amman Industrial Estate. In a cable he sent to King Hussein, Mr. Abu Hassan said the chamber's board will remain the strong arm that will further enhance the industrial march in Jordan.

JPMC releases export figures

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) exported 430,000 tonnes during May 1992, according to JPMC Director General Thabet Al Taber. The company's director said that the total phosphates exports as of the beginning of this year amounted to 1,943,153 tonnes, compared with 1,737,710 tonnes during the same period in 1991.

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Lesson of history

IF THE only significance that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir attaches to the 25th anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 is his conclusion that the Arab side has joined the peace process simply because the Arab's war option has been eliminated by Israel's might, then he is dead wrong. Besides, in taking such an attitude he is inviting other military confrontations between the Arabs and Israel.

True the Arabs lost the 1967 war and with it Egypt, Syria and Jordan lost considerable territories; but unless the right lessons are drawn from that conflagration, there can be no sure way to avoid its repetition in the future. Instead of reveling for ever in its military victory in 1967 and getting intoxicated by its military prowess, the Israeli leaders need to heed the lessons of history and extend a conciliatory hand to their neighbours in a bid to reestablish peace and justice. Such a lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict should not be based on the victor-and-vanquished formula but rather on more enlightened criteria that can stand the test of time.

Surely the leaders of both the Labour and the Likud parties in Israel realise that their country's military victory in 1967 was achieved with a certain cost to their countrymen in terms of life and material losses. The various Israeli constituencies certainly also appreciate the fact that the 1973 Arab-Israeli war was but a direct consequence of the Arab defeat in 1967. That war, it may be remembered, was very costly to Israel and for a long period of time had caused much panic and agony to the Israeli public and their leaders. Then came the war of 1982 when Israeli forces invaded Lebanon and penetrated deep into the country where they reached the capital Beirut. Everybody now knows how that blitzkrieg had shaken the entire political system in Israel and left deep scars in its national psyche. It may be worth remembering also that the massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps during Israel's occupation of Beirut will forever tarnish the Israeli name and mar the Jewish state's reputation for generations to come.

Against this backdrop, it would have been more prudent and meaningful for Israel to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 1982 Israeli-Lebanese war which fell on June 6 than to marvel in and dwell on the results of the 1967 war and draw the wrong conclusions from it. And instead of viewing the Arab support for the U.S.-brokered peace process as some kind of weakness, it would be wiser and more constructive for the Israeli leadership to interpret it as presenting historic challenges for peace and coexistence in the region that would open monumental opportunities for development and progress for all the peoples of the region.

Unless Israel's future leaders, whoever they may be, reappraise the impact of and the lessons learned from not only the 1967 Arab-Israeli war but all the other wars and conflicts that had erupted in the Middle East since then, there will be no guarantee that another military confrontation could develop between the Arabs and Israel. It is up to the arrogant party, which might be blinded by the possession of crude power, to realise the folly of its thoughts and actions before it is late. The weak might stay weak for some time, but short of dying it can only grow stronger.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday elaborated on King Hussein's address at a graduation ceremony at Muta University, describing his words as infusing new hope in the hearts of the Arab Nation. The King's address to the nation was an encouragement to the Arabs who, it said, are at the threshold of a new revolution which would bring with it a new mission and which would enable the Arabs to forge ahead with progress, said the daily. In his address, the King presented outlines for a new Jordan as a nation upholding the mission of the Great Arab Revolt which advocates justice, democracy and freedom for Arabs, said the daily. The paper referred to the King's words about Jerusalem and the holy places in Palestine noting that no other Arab state could be closer to Palestine than Jordan and no one would be more keen on safeguarding the holy shrines than the Jordanian people. The King's address provided a pledge to the world that Jordan would remain steadfast and would remain committed to providing protection to the holy shrines, following in the footsteps of the leaders of the Arab revolt, the paper added. It said that the King in his nationwide address urged the Arabs to confront the challenges of the modern age with clear vision, diligence and continued endeavours for progress and prosperity.

EVERY HOLIDAY in Jordan brings with it the spectre of carnage in the streets, due to road accidents, and the coming Eid Al Adha is bound to witness a similar situation unless speedy and effective measures are taken to prevent it, according to a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday. Nazih, who tackles domestic issues, said that the traffic police, who do not take a holiday during Jordan's religious feasts and public holidays, appear in strength on the streets of major cities during the holidays, but their presence seems to have little effect on the growing number of road accidents. The writer said that during every holiday, especially during the summer season, many people fall victims to the road accidents and many youths are found to be driving recklessly their parents cars causing those accidents. He called on the Public Security Department and its various branches to benefit from the previous lessons and adopt measures, night and day, to prevent accidents and to monitor traffic during the coming holiday, starting Wednesday. The writer said that during the holidays more cars are on the streets, as people go about visiting relatives, making it more difficult for the traffic police to control the situation. People going out visiting are normally accompanied by their children and many of them are seen on the streets, exposed to dangers, said the writer. He said that everything possible should be made in order to protect human lives and prevent damage to public and private property.

Weekly Political Pulse

Pressed by time, Israeli encroachment, Palestinians appear losing faith in peace process

A five-day sojourn in the West Bank that ended Thursday was more than enough to discern the basic difference in perspective between the Palestinian and the Jordanian peoples on the prospects of peace in the Middle East. At a time when there is growing optimism in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan that peace in the region is just around the corner, because of the satisfaction of many, the Bush administration is determined to attain one as some kind of a Bush legacy to future generations, the Palestinian people across the River Jordan do not seem to share this optimism. Speaking to Palestinians from many walks of life and of different age groups has convinced this writer that the Palestinians under occupation have all but lost hope in achieving any kind of peace under the conditions that they view as a bare minimum for attaining their national goals and self-respect. Many middle-aged people voiced concern over the fact that Palestinians are migrating from East Jerusalem in greater numbers than ever before. One eminent physician who owns and runs a Palestinian hospital on the outskirts of East Jerusalem projected that in less than a decade the Arab population of Jerusalem may dwindle to less than 30,000, a dramatic drop from the current figure of over 100,000 Palestinian inhabitants. Heavy and cumbersome Israeli taxes imposed on the Arab population of Jerusalem, he said, are driving many businesses out of the city in search for tax havens elsewhere. The five-year-old intifada has also taken its toll on the Palestinians and drove many to seek refuge and normalcy elsewhere in the world, especially by seeking to emigrate to the U.S., Canada or even Australia. More depressing and disillusioning to the Palestinians under occupation are the hard the seemingly irrevocable facts created almost daily by Israel in the occupied Arab territories. It is not just the massive and continuing Israeli settlement programmes that disenchant the Palestinians, but also the dramatic changes in the road networks of the area and in the other infrastructures of the territories that stifled any lingering hope that something reasonable can still be salvaged through the bilateral or multilateral peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties.

Yet, the most disturbing development from the Palestinian

point of view is the deep-rooted disarray that now exists in the so-called Arab World and the disappearance of the Soviet Union as a superpower on the international arena. As long as Moscow was out there, commented one Palestinian intellectual, there was always hope that the Palestinian rights and aspirations would have a chance for being achieved. But now, with the advent of a new international order, heavily dominated by Washington and London, the Palestinians seem to have lost all hope of ever receiving the kind of recognition and support that they were banking on when the communist order was still alive and kicking and powerful enough to reckon with.

Apparently the Israelis also share the Palestinian pessimism, albeit for different reasons. Over and over again one would hear the argument that the Arabs are not sincere enough in their quest for peace with them; the Israelis that insist Israel needs and seeks a real peace, the kind that does not seem to them to be forthcoming from the Arab side. To put in a nutshell, over and above the political and cultural differences between the two sides there appears to be a continuing psychological barrier that has yet to be even scratched, much less dealt with and addressed in depth.

Then there is, of course, the blueprint of any solution that the current Israeli state of mind — whether in the Likud or Labour camps — can live with. While the Likud appears to be dismissing any notion of territorial compromise with the Palestinians, at least the Labour offers some elements of territorial compromise on the West Bank if Jordan can be convinced to come back to the forefront, in the negotiation over the future of the West Bank, and accept once again to assume its traditional role in the West Bank. And realising that King Hussein is not about to take such an Israeli bait, having rejected it repeatedly in the past, the Labour leadership appears to fall back on another formula that calls for an expanded self-rule for the Palestinians without a corresponding or parallel territorial compromise that the Palestinian can live with. This leads many Palestinians to conclude that there is hardly any substantive difference from their point of view between the Labourites and Likudniks in Israel since in the

final analysis both parties aim to achieve the same result albeit through different avenues.

One Palestinian leader commented that Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin is only sugar-coating what the Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir is offering the Arab side. Nothing more, nothing less.

But why the Jordanians are more hopeful than the Palestinians is a question whose answer is still eluding many observers. I had put the question to many observers on the scene and most attributed the difference in attitude to the different tones that the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the peace parleys are setting to their own respective peoples. While the Jordanian delegations, it was pointed out, appear more confident about where they are heading and what they are aspiring to, the Palestinian delegations, was the opinion, are less confident in view of the fact that they have different and opposing audiences to reckon with. The Palestinian representatives to the bilateral and multilateral peace talks feel that they have to please many Palestinian factions and groups, ranging from the extremist to the moderate, and this, in the minds of many Israelis, made them less coherent and optimistic about the prospects of peace in the area. The Jordanians, on the other hand, have but one leadership and since they refuse to deal with any issue except Jordanian issues, their tasks and objectives are infinitely simpler, giving rise to some degree of optimism.

Yet all sides are bracing themselves for the results of the Israeli June 23 general elections. Israelis, Palestinians and the other Arab parties have acquired enough realpolitik appreciation and knowledge to understand that the new elections may usher in an entirely new era with new conditions and terms for peace that currently do not exist. Till that point in time, everything seems to be put on hold by all the parties. Whether this hope in the future would materialise or not is of course another subject. From the look of things, and the kind of violence inflicted by each side on the other, the voices of pessimism may still be proven right even after the elections are held in Israel and the votes counted and digested.

Unity of purpose for Jordan and Palestine King's emotional encounter with Arafat brings two peoples ever closer together

By Lamis K. Andoni

The emotional scene of His Majesty King Hussein hugging Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat outside King Hussein Medical City Friday, while the latter left hospital after his successful head surgery, has struck Jordanians and Palestinians as the closest brotherly and sincere encounter between the two leaders. After years of knowing each other, competing with each other and contesting each other's legitimacy, even fighting against one another, Friday's encounter was by far the most expressive of how far the two leaders have come recently.

Since last Monday, when Mr. Arafat was hurriedly admitted to the hospital, Jordanians and Palestinians, in Jordan and the Israeli occupied territories, have been watching the Monarch talking to journalists almost daily on the progress of the Palestinian leader's recovery.

Up until Friday night, when a tired but cheerful Arafat emerged from the Medical City, King Hussein was effectively the after ego of the Palestinian leader — in a rare expression of the inseparable destinies of the two people.

As Jordanians and Palestinians watched the evolution of the close human relationship between the two leaders, memories of sweet and bitter, even tragic, past flashed back in the minds of thousands — many wondering if that tragic chapter in the two people's history could have been avoided.

The scenes did not only invoke happy and sad memories, but also sparked hope that the two peoples will find support in each other in the future, in case Israel tries to impose a solution that could infringe on either of the two people's rights.

It is no secret that even though Jordan and the Palestinians have been part of a joint negotiating team, differences and mutual suspicions have remained, partly hindering effective coordination at the Middle East peace process.

The mutual suspicions, which are not admitted publicly but implied in statements, gestures and expressed sometimes privately, do not only stem from the past experience. Rather, tension, which surfaces from time to time in different forms, finds its roots in the fact that Israel, and even some people in Washington, could contemplate a settlement that involves a substitute homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan or exclude Palestinian national rights within the context of Jordanian authority over some parts of the West Bank.

As a result, the two sides, separately, inside and outside the delegations, have been en-



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat upon leaving hospital on June 5, thanks His Majesty King Hussein for his brotherly care (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alam)

gaged in conscious and subconscious efforts each to assert their separate identity, as they are haunted by the fear that one identity will be used to erase the other.

Therefore, it was to be expected that the Palestinian leadership, or at least the prevalent school of thought in the PLO, would still view the Jordanian role as a potential threat to independent Palestinian representation.

On the other side of the equation, the drive, by some political trends in Jordan, to assert Jordan's "Jordanian" identity, in view of the dual identity of the population, has also been asserting itself as the peace process has underscored how the overlapping of the two identities and destinies would take place.

Both sides, however, have been reluctant so far to delve deeply into discussing a well-defined and detailed framework for the future relationship, even though the idea and proposal of the Jordanian-Palestinian "confederation" comes up for debate every so often.

The Jordanian side apparently steers away from statements, or actions, that could be interpreted as an indication of reversing the 1988 relinquishing of responsibility for the West Bank to the PLO. While the PLO is cautious, in all of its moves and decisions, to clearly assert an independent Palestinian representation and not allow Jordan "the upper hand" — a situation that in the Palestinian view could be used to undermine Palestinian representation and national rights.

The problem, however, that the two sides could not and cannot avoid is the historic interdependence between them. After all, not only will any future settlement involve some form of association, that could even be unity, but Jordan also remains the only party that has an internationally recognised legal claim over the West Bank.

This fact springs to the surface every time the peace process reaches a deadlock over Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, especially when the Israeli delegation in-

Jordanian people."

To some Jordanian proponents of "Jordanisation," these activities are signs "of the subordination of the Jordanian identity to the Palestinians." But the history of the popular organisations and parties in Jordan shows that this overlapping started at a point when pan-Arab nationalism, or at least the ideological identity, was the starting point for the formation of political parties in the country, even when Jordanians joined the armed Palestinian resistance groups in the sixties.

The democratisation process in Jordan has, to a great extent succeeded in defusing potentially serious tensions and, probably, in preventing a serious political crisis between the PLO and Jordan.

But there is a growing feeling and belief, on both sides, that it is time to address all the aspects of the relationship, including the sensitive future of

By Sultan Al Hattab

TWO PROMINENT Palestinian journalists who arrived here from the occupied Arab territories told me that Palestinians of various political affiliations, under Israeli rule, had their eyes glued on the TV set for news on President Arafat's condition while at the King Hussein Medical Centre and that the Palestinians are grateful over the role of Jordan Television and the Jordanian media in covering Mr. Arafat's health condition and the news of his treatment in Jordan.

The two journalists, whom I met over lunch here, said the Palestinians harbour deep appreciation of and great admiration and gratitude for His Majesty King Hussein for his role in alleviating Mr. Arafat's sufferings and for his keenness to stay close to him at the hospital following the successful operation.

he had urged Mr. Arafat, a long time ago, to seek proper medication for his headaches.

However, the two journalists I talked to were careful to report the response of the Palestinian masses upon hearing about Mr. Arafat's plane being lost in the desert. They said that never before had there been such unity among Palestinian personalities. The incident, they said, was something which made everyone realise Mr. Arafat's importance for his people.

One journalist told me that the president has become a symbol for the Palestinians, upon whom falls the responsibility of accepting or rejecting what is good or bad for the Palestinian people. On the whole, Mr. Arafat has won the full support of the Palestinians in the street, the journalist added.

Mr. Arafat, who chose Amman for his difficult operation, had told one of his confidants: "I have deep trust in Jordan and the Jordanian people and consider them as my folks."

This close side to Mr. Arafat told me also that he himself was surprised to see the president calling by name the doctors who took charge of his condition following the operation thanking them for their efforts.

According to the journalist, Mr. Arafat had commented on this by saying: "These people are the wealth of Jordan, these people are more precious than the oil and more generous than other Arabs."

Before undergoing the operation, Mr. Arafat was always in a state of anxiety and excitement, following his escape from the plane crash, his assistant said.

Dr. Shreideh who led the team of surgeons operating on Mr. Arafat, briefed me in full on the operation and said that it was the third of its kind, performed by him, but the least complicated.

Dr. Shreideh is considered one of the most prominent and rare specialists in the field.

Dr. Ashraf Al Kundi briefed me on Mr. Arafat's condition since 1984 because, he said, he had been his specialist in Jordan and knew all the facts about him.

Numerous Palestinian personalities had arrived in Amman from the occupied Arab territories and from abroad in order to be assured of Mr. Arafat's health condition while he was still in hospital.

The visitors had only access to a register book where they signed, wishing the president speedy recovery.

On the whole, they all told me that the people under Israeli rule are all united and that divisions and differences among them have ended with the news about the president's health condition and subsequent operation — Al Ra'i.



An advertisement that appeared in all Arabic dailies Sunday in which Palestinian ambassador in Amman Tayeb Abdurahman expressed his gratitude on behalf of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat to His Majesty King Hussein for the interest and care shown to Mr. Arafat during and following his surgery at the King Hussein Medical City

the Palestinians in Jordan, once a settlement is achieved, in a very candid manner.

This is crucial, especially that both sides have a genuine interest in a solution that involves a recognition of the right of return for Palestinian refugees — a prerequisite for the attainment of Palestinian national rights — and prevention of a substitute homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan.

Although it is unfair to strip the involvement of a closer relationship between King Hussein and Mr. Arafat of its human symbolism, away from political rivalries, it is naive to assume that it will not have implications on the Jordanian and Palestinian psyche, particularly in overcoming mutual suspicion and paving the way for an open debate on their future.

The issues involved are far from simple, but at stake are the destinies of both sides — destinies whose tackling can no longer be avoided or evaded.

One of the journalists from Bethlehem told me that numerous women from the Bethlehem region climbed to the roofs of their houses ululating with joy and delight when they heard Dr. Youssef Qusous, head of the Royal Medical Services, announce the success of Mr. Arafat's operation. He said that the Palestinians have deep trust in this specialist because he was in charge of King Hussein's medical care before.

Dr. Ashraf Kundi, who is close to Mr. Arafat and knows him very well, told me that the president had been complaining of severe headaches and drowsiness, among other symptoms, and that his condition required immediate surgical operation.

Some doctors and specialists attributed Mr. Arafat's condition to the plane crash in Libya, but one specialist told me that the pain had nothing to do with that incident and that

Danish 'no' may divert EC's political union drive

By Andres Wolberg-Stok
Reuters

OSLO — Whatever European leaders say, the Danish voters' no to the Maastricht Treaty could see a discreet shift away from supra-national politics and back to the safe ground of trade and commerce.

"As EC leaders become fearful and absorbed, they might start thinking 'I don't want to go through that door because the bucket is going to fall on my head,'" said one diplomat.

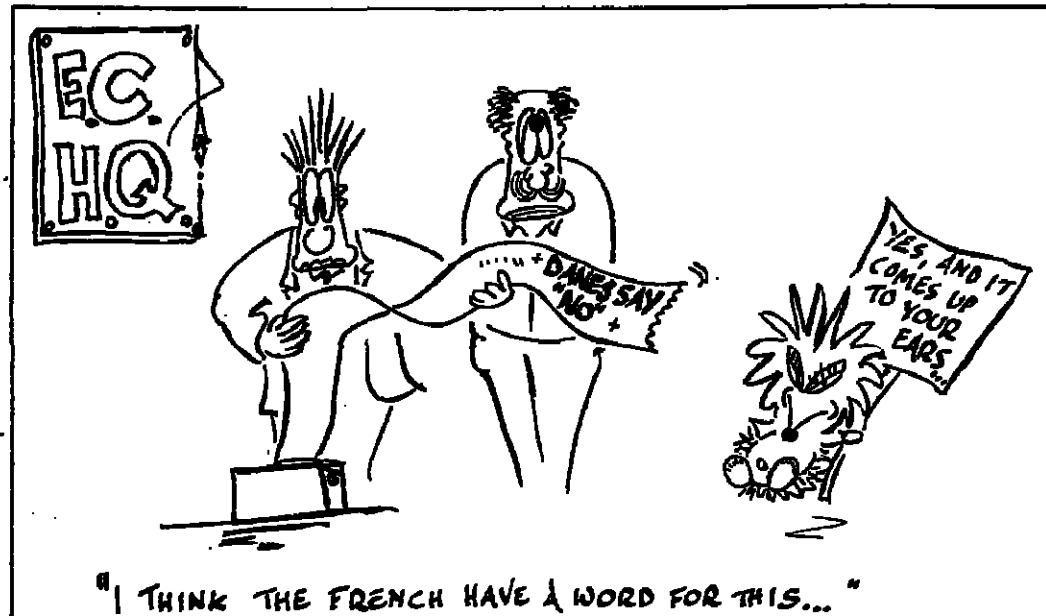
The Danish result may have thrown the EC off its steady course towards political union for the foreseeable future.

After all, trade and economics have been the EC's mainstay since its birth 35 years ago.

At an emergency meeting in Oslo to see what could be salvaged of the Maastricht blueprint for a common foreign policy and a single currency, EC foreign ministers have pledged that the other 11 would forge ahead with ratification of the treaty and leave the door open for Denmark to join later.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, who chaired the crisis talks, boasted that it was the best EC meeting he had seen in five years.

"This is very rewarding, especially when some were already burying the community after the outcome of the referendum in Denmark," he told a news conference.



reference. Jacques Delors, president of the executive European Commission, said he had spoken to EC leaders and that the agenda for their summit in Lisbon would still include discussions on how to forge a common foreign policy. In private, EC leaders are likely to be less confident of what will happen if Danish voters, who struck down the treaty by a slim margin of 46,000 votes on Tuesday, refuse to budge.

"We fear introspection and absorption with this problem is just going to be a serious distraction for all European leaders," said a senior non-EC diplomat.

The treaty agreed by EC leaders at their summit in the Dutch town of Maastricht six months ago maps the course to a single currency by 1999.

It also sets the foundation for common policies on foreign, security and immigration affairs, widely seen as an inevitable complement to the drive towards economic integration.

"I'm afraid of the cascade effect in other states — everybody goes back and says 'ah, you see, it's not that inevitable,'" the non-EC diplomat said.

If its voters had not quashed the treaty, Denmark would have been the first of the 12 EC states to ratify it. All the others are at various stages of the process, with Ireland due to hold its own referendum in less than two weeks' time.

France, one of the most ardent proponents of a tightly united Europe, decided to hold a referendum too after the Danish vote shattered EC leaders' assumptions as to how their constituents feel about European Union.

In all the other states, it will be up to parliaments to ratify the treaty — a golden opportunity for opposition parties to draw the process out and make it as painful as possible.

As long as Maastricht remains in the legal netherworld in which EC ministers cast it on Thursday, the EC will have on new treaty tools to build a common foreign policy or address immigration problems as one.

"The document of reference against becomes the (EC's founding) Treaty of Rome, 1957," said a diplomat.

Some point out that even without the Maastricht Treaty in place, the EC had been building a united stance on world affairs for years and most recently was able to agree on sanctions against Serbia last week, despite considerable internal splits.

Optimists believe that even if EC leaders do become much more cautious as a result of the Danish vote, the lack of a treaty basis for a common foreign policy and other political union aims will not stop them altogether.

Borrowing a leaf from Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen's book after he said the answer may be for his country "to be and not to be" in the EC, one diplomat turned to Shakespeare's Henry VI for advice on how to salvage the drive towards political union: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," he said.

Arabs favour Labour for short-term peace results

By Ashraf Fouad
Reuters

CAIRO — A clear Labour victory in Israel's general election this month could lead to short-term progress in Middle East peace talks but Arabs see little difference in the long run between Labour and the ruling hardline Likud Party.

Arab officials and analysts said this week they believed Labour would be more flexible on granting self-rule to the 1.75 million Palestinians living under occupation, on freezing Jewish settlements and in accepting a limited withdrawal from lands seized in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

But like Likud, Labour rejected Arab demands to return East Jerusalem, opposed the right of return of Palestinians in exile and favoured maintaining strategic strongholds on occupied land.

"Labour sugar-coats its intransigence while Likud is blunt and brash," said a Palestinian political analyst who noted that a Labour government was in power 25 years ago when Israel seized the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Arab East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

"It would be easier to negotiate with Labour now on interim arrangements but not very much so the final status stage," he added.

Middle East peace talks which began last October aim at working out interim self-rule arrangements for the Palestinians which would lead after three years to negotiations on the final status of the territories occupied in 1967.

Israel is negotiating simultaneously with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Syria and Lebanon. About 30 countries and organisations are involved in parallel multinational talks or regional issues like economic development and arms control.

An Israeli diplomat in Cairo said: "Arabs favour Labour because its language appears more pleasant but deep inside the difference with Likud is not that big. The difference is tactical."

Labour is slightly ahead of Likud in opinion polls for the June 23 election but not enough to be sure of forming a government.

Analysts see a possible Labour-Likud coalition, which Arab diplomats believe would be damaging to the peace process because rivalry within the government could paralyse decision-making.

The best outcome for the Arabs would be a coalition between Labour and leftist parties which favour the establishment of side-by-side Jewish and Palestinian states. But analysts see this as points in the peace process.

Arabs are also concerned about Labour's studied vagueness on specific points in the peace process.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nagy Al Ghatrifi commented: "Unlike Likud, Labour says 'land for peace,' but how much land and which land?"

Some Arabs fear the vagueness of Labour's position could lead to squabbling between Arab governments as each tried to push Labour for its own particular concessions.

"Likud's position is clear so we know what we are up against," an Arab diplomat said. "But dealing with Labour could in the end lead to inter-Arab feuding with limited and selected withdrawal offers."

Arabs blame Likud's leader, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, for lack of progress so far in the peace talks. But diplomats say that despite Mr. Shamir's hardline policies and statements a deal could still be struck with Likud.

They recall it was a Likud government which made peace with Egypt in 1979 and returned the entire Sinai Peninsula, even dismantling Jewish settlements.

For many Arabs, however, the Israeli election is less important than the U.S. presidential election in November.

They believe Israel joined serious peace talks only because of American pressure and if George Bush fails to be re-elected the momentum would be lost.

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Courier wins French Open

PARIS (AP) — Jim Courier rolled to his second straight French Open title Sunday, 7-5, 6-2, 6-1, playing steady, powerful tennis while underdog Petr Korda undid himself with repeated crucial errors.

Courier, who lost only one set in his seven matches here, proved emphatically he deserves his Number One world ranking. Winner of the Australian Open in January, the 21-year-old American has now won three Grand Slam titles and is halfway to a sweep of the four events this year.

Korda showed flashes of brilliance in the opening set, and the crowd began to anticipate a dramatic match.

But in the second set, after breaking Courier to take a 1-2 lead, Korda lost his own serve with back-to-back double faults. The Number Seven seed from Prague lost the next six games, winning only seven points in the process, and the outcome was

clear.

"I had big feet today," Korda said. "I was nervous. ... Maybe next time will be better."

In all, Korda committed nine double faults and made 49 unforced errors, compared to only 17 for Courier. In three games, Korda double-faulted twice.

Courier hammered two aces in the final set, winning the match in one hour, 59 minutes.

"It was a tough first set," Courier said. "Once I got that under my belt, things seemed to go my way."

In his acceptance speech, Courier delighted the centre-court crowd by starting off in French as he thanked the fans, officials and ballboys.

Then he apologized for speaking "Like a Spanish cow," a French expression used for someone who butchers the language.

He switched into English, after promising, "Next year, maybe

Gonzalez retains WBC title

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Humberto Gonzalez of Mexico retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) light flyweight title Sunday by stopping South Korean challenger Kim Kwang-Sun in the 12th round.

Gonzalez, making his second title defence, felled Kim with a powerful left hook shortly before the end of the 11th round after having been outboxed in the previous rounds.

Kim was downed again in close exchanges at the start of the 12th round. He struggled but wobbled along the ropes as Gonzalez launched a devastating assault, forcing the referee to step in and stop the scheduled 12-round bout.

It was Gonzalez' second defence of the title he won a year ago for the second time. He clinched the title first in 1989 against South Korea's Lee Yul-Woo but lost it last June in his sixth defence.

Gonzalez, 26, now has 33 victories against one defeat. It was Kim's first loss against five wins.

A. P. Indy wins Belmont Stakes

NEW YORK (AP) — A.P. Indy stamped the 1992 Triple Crown series with a "2" by winning the Belmont Stakes on Saturday.

Eddie Delahoussaye sent the son of Seattle Slew, the 1977 Triple Crown winner and material grandson of Secretariat, the 1973 Triple Crown winner, into the lead with about an eighth of a mile (a fifth of a kilometre) to go for the victory.

Forever more, the question will be: What would have happened if A.P. Indy had not missed the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness because of a crack in his left front hoof?

In winning, A.P. Indy ran the 1.5 miles (2.4 kms) on a track listed as good after being listed as muddy for the previous seven races in 2:26. That tied 1989 winner Easy Goer for the second-fastest time in the 124-year history of the Belmont.

The record of 2:24 was set by Secretariat.

Preakness winner Pine Bluff finished third. Kentucky Derby winner Lil E. Tee did not race because of a lung infection. The three-place finish earned the \$1-million bonus for the most points in the three races for Pine Bluff, the fifth-place finisher in

the Derby, who collected 13 points. The only other horse with a chance at the bonus was Casual Lies, second in the derby and third in the Preakness for eight points. But he failed to get any points Saturday by finishing fifth.

Delahoussaye, who rode Risen Star to his 1988 Belmont victory, had the favoured A.P. Indy in good position throughout, then drove the colt home for his seventh straight victory since a career-opening loss last October.

A.P. Indy, trained by Neil Drysdale, a native of England, and owned by Tomonori Tsurumaki of Japan, finished three-quarters of a length in front of his memoirs, a British-bred colt making his debut in the United States and on the dirt.

Another neck back was Pine Bluff, who finished 13/4 lengths in front of Cristoforo, ridden by Steve Cauthen, returning to Belmont Park for the first time since 1978, when he won the Triple Crown with Affirmed.

A.P. Indy returned \$4.20, \$3.80 and \$3. My Memoirs, recently purchased by Americans Barry Irwin and Jeff Siegel, returned \$11.60 and \$6.60. Pine Bluff paid \$4.20 to show. Completing the order of finish after fifth place Casual Lies, were Colony Light, Agincourt, Montreal Marty, Robert's Hero, Al

Sabin and Jacksonport.

A.P. Indy, who would have been the second favourite in the Kentucky Derby to Arazi, the highly touted French-based colt who finished eighth, earned his favourite's role in the Belmont with an impressive victory in the 1.1-8-mile (1.8 km) Peter Pan May 24 at Belmont.

"He was moving nice and easy," Delahoussaye said of A.P. Indy's stretch drive. "I gave him a look at the stick and he really accelerated when I called on him."

"We won by enough, and that's all that counts."

"I'm pleased to be here because we couldn't make the Kentucky Derby," Tsurumaki said through an interpreter.

Casual Lies, ridden by Gary Stevens, took the lead shortly after the break and led the field around the clubhouse turn.

As they entered the backstretch, Agincourt, ridden by Art Madrid Jr., was second to Casual Lies. A.P. Indy was third, followed by Pine Bluff, ridden by Chris McCarron. With three-quarters of a mile to go, Agincourt assumed the lead over Casual Lies with A.P. Indy dropping to fourth behind Pine Bluff. When they reached the quarter pole, Pine Bluff was on top, with A.P. Indy second and poised for his winning drive.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 8, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Despite apparent obstacles in the path of your desires, you are now able to brush off in a new direction successfully as long as you rely on your mind instead of your emotions. You make considerable headway...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Add a touch of charm and value to whatever property you possess and make it more attractive and valuable; then you can get into working out a better budget.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider how you can enhance your attractiveness at the beauty salon or barber shop of your choice and then arrange other personal appearance.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now have the chance to show affection early in a new or other thoughtful gesture to your loved one, then later you can reap the benefits.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A charming friend does you a greater favour in the morning or you return one already rendered while later you can join a group of congenial companions.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) The morning finds some worldly opportunity awaiting your success so be alert and get it while later you can pursue the practical side of a civic duty.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A message or person from

distance or of different views to your own can please you very much in the morning, after which gain data about a new venture.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think over what your attachment likes the most and arrange the morning for it to be a part of your joint lives and later you can have a happy romantic time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to compliment an associate you want to be in your life for a long time to come and their discuss joint plans to be made for the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Show some appreciation for the association you have with a fellow associate and then you find your mutual tasks produce far better results.

CAPECORN: (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan some entertainment that appeals to you during the morning hours, then you can make additional preparations later in the day.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Adding something to enhance the wellbeing at your own home can inspire you in the morning and you can carry through and get it in the evening.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) In any communications today be sure you add a note showing you value the relationship and then you can see ways to improve daily operative skills.

PASSPORT LOST

I, Sudagar Singh s/o Chanan Singh, have lost my passport No. M 446236 issued from Chandigarh on 23/1/1978. Finders please contact the Indian embassy tel. 637262 or the nearest police station.

Al Amal Exhibition opened

under the patronage of Her Highness Naf'ah Bint Ali Al Amal Exhibition was officially opened in Al Badia hall at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

The exhibition runs for four days, starting June 7, through June 11. We receive you daily from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Open Invitation.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
#63 ♠KQ10 ♠A532

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

A.—It's simply a question of whether you are aggressive or conservative. At this vulnerability, we would prefer to take a part score into the next hand, giving us a better chance to become vulnerable. Our choice: Invite with two no trump.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
#431094 ♠Q42 ♠A62 ♠Q6

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 2 ♣

What do you bid now?

A.—Not only do you have a minimum opening bid, but your queen of hearts has diminished in value. With your balanced hand, there is absolutely no reason why you should bid. Pass, and wait to hear what partner does next—the two-over-one response promises another bid.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
#AQ976 ♠AQJ10 ♠K ♠73

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—Especially at this vulnerability, you want to contract for game in one of your suits. Since as little as king of spades and three cards in

one of the majors could be enough for 10 tricks, we suggest a jump shift of three hearts.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
#K ♠73 ♠AQ976 ♠AQJ10

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—The same hand as in the previous example, except the suits have been switched. As a result, you can no longer insist on game, so a jump shift would be a slight overbid. We recommend two clubs. Unless partner can bid again, we doubt that you have more than a part score.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
#AQ102 ♠6532 ♠KJ9 ♠62

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—As responder, any four-card suit is bidable in response to a minor-suit opening bid. If you are going to respond in a suit, the rule is to do so up the line. Therefore, bid one heart despite the disparity in suit quality. If you choose one spade, you risk losing a 4-4 heart fit.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
#Q9 ♠8543 ♠J84 ♠K965

Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?

A.—You certainly want to be in game. However, if you have a 4-4 major-suit fit, your ruffing value makes a four-heart contract look more attractive. Bid three clubs—the Stayman Convention—to find out about partner's holding.

Jordan Times Tel.: 667171

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Cinema Tel: 677420

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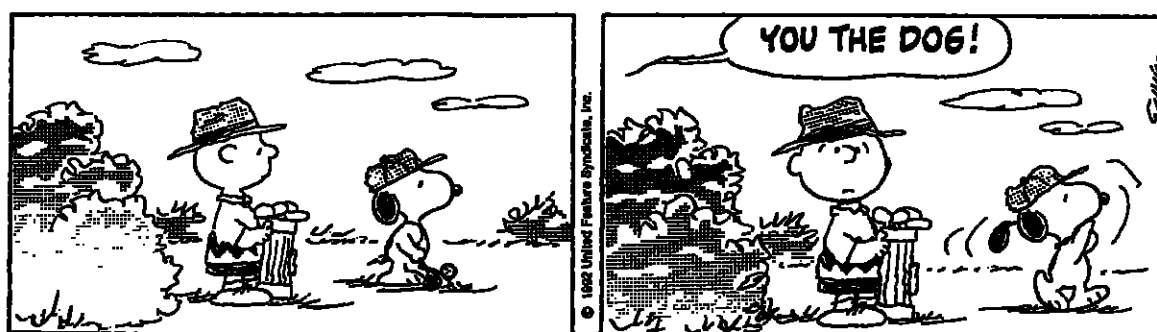
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Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By: by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VELCO

STUGE

DOYLEM

MANIAE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: YOU

Jumbles: HOARD GLEAM FAUCET STOODY

Answer: What that stubborn guy didn't want to be confused by—THE FACTS

Saturday's Jumbles: HOARD GLEAM FAUCET STOODY

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Kohl sees pickup signs in Germany's economy

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl said on Sunday there were many signs of a pickup in West Germany's economy, a key condition for continued financial aid from the West to rebuild East Germany's shattered economy.

In an interview on national radio, Mr. Kohl repeated his view that there was a good chance the inflation rate would drop below four per cent in the second half of this year.

The annual rate of inflation in western Germany slowed slightly in May to 4.5 per cent from 4.6 in April after reaching a 10-year high of 4.8 per cent in March.

Mr. Kohl rejected extending an income tax surcharge, due to expire on July 1, saying that companies and individuals need a motivation to invest, not higher taxes.

"What we need now — and that is why I think the discussion about extending the solidarity surcharge is completely wrong — is a motivation for investments and not the threat of asking people to pay more," he said.

Last June Germany introduced a one-year, 7.5 per cent income tax surcharge — the solidarity surcharge — to help pay the huge costs of rebuilding the former communist east's economy.

The chancellor repeated his opposition to new fees that would make the rich pay more towards the cost of unification.

Last month German President Richard von Weizsäcker, who has no political power, proposed a levy on income from shares, bonds, savings and insurance policies that would work similarly to an earlier burden-sharing system in former West Germany.

From 1949 to 1979 taxpayers in the West helped compensate refugees from the East for confiscated property and wealth and people in the West who lost homes during World War II.

Mr. Kohl said burden-sharing raised only 140 billion marks (\$87 billion at current rates) over 30 years but West Germany has transferred 250 billion marks (\$155 billion) to the east since July 1990.

London-based Jordan International Bank keeps top Amman bankers in dilemma

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Whoever says the bank will be closing down is harming the country and should be handed over to the police," Zuhair Khoury told the Jordan Times at the top of his voice when asked if the London-based Jordan International Bank (JIB) was in crisis and was likely to halt operations following other Arab banks which have cancelled their presence in Britain.

A short-tempered Khoury, a JIB board member and chairman as well as general manager of Jordan's Housing Bank, went on to say: "Such talk represents a campaign against Jordan. If a bank is doing well and improving would you close it or try to expand its network?" He added that since the capital of the bank was raised on Dec. 31, 1991 from £10 million to £15 million, JIB had posted a monthly profit, noting that the bank was likely to post around £800,000 net profit in 1992.

Not everybody interviewed about JIB's situation, however, was as content and defensive of its operations. Some people chose to be tight-lipped, others preferred "to absent themselves" and quite a few couldn't remain quiet.

Nelly Batshon, a Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) staff member, who acts as a liaison officer for JIB in Amman, refused to reveal any information about the bank.

Repeated persuasion seems to have convinced Ms. Batshon to provide the Jordan Times with only a very general and historic background on JIB. However, the liaison officer was probably told by some senior CBJ officials to refrain from giving even such information because the next day she took her previous negative stand insisting that she can only send this writer a copy of the JIB's 1991 annual report.

Having closed the door on the matter, without opening an opportunity to seek further explanation on JIB's performance from the CBJ governor or his deputy — who must have been notified but opted to stay uninvolved — there was no way but to inquire about JIB some private and independent sources other than the Housing Bank and the CBJ, which are both major shareholders in the London-based bank.

"JIB is a fiasco," a banker with wide knowledge of banking in Europe said. "It is being kept running because of the CBJ equity in it and the image that such a shareholding entails."

The private banker, who insisted on anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, added that the Housing Bank (HB) was kept to keep JIB operating because of HB's very limited exposure outside Jordan.

"JIB has been losing for years and if it is making some profit now, it is because of the new funding in the form of capital increase to absorb the high costs and expenses to keep the bank open," the banker said.

Jack Kattan, assistant general manager of Jordan National Bank described JIB's profitability in a more diplomatic way saying:

"JIB's performance over the past years has been below average, but a moderate profit expected this year should be seen as an improvement, not in terms of the amount itself, but when the profit is taken as a ratio to capital, known as earnings to equity ratio."

Dr. Kattan rejected the idea that the bank should be liquidated and stressed that it was a viable entity and a good base for Jordan in

Europe. He highlighted the fact that JIB served the Kingdom well during the Gulf crisis, when all other banks overseas balked at confirming Jordanian letters of credit and other banking services.

Noting that some Jordanian banks and financial institutions in the Kingdom have sold their small stakes in JIB (probably to the Housing Bank) some time ago, Dr. Kattan commented that the concept of "consortium banks" has failed or, at least, has become "out of date."

He mentioned that "consortium banks" were a trend or a feature of the 70s and early 80s, but the rationale behind this phenomenon has faded.

"Conflicting interests of shareholders, and other reasons as well, have shown that at least one shareholder should be enjoying a commanding equity and, therefore, more authority to manage the consortium," Dr. Kattan explained.

Another senior banker, opting for anonymity, said that many banks were weary of Britain and noted that the largest Saudi bank (National Commercial Bank) was also closing its operations in London in addition to many others which pulled out from that country.

Dr. Kattan said the closing of the Saudi bank does not necessarily mean that Britain has lost its financial importance or that other banks should join an exodus from London, although he acknowledged that competition was tough in that city.

"It could well be that the National Commercial Bank was concentrating its European activities in another country in that continent. So, it is a completely different story to compare it with Jordan International Bank," he elaborated.

Yousef Abu Loha, a senior official at Jordan's leading Real Estate Financial Company (REFCO), said his company had 150,000 shares in JIB, costing £75,000 because only 50 per cent of the share value had been paid. He added that REFCO sold that investment last year because "the management found the investment in JIB not worth keeping."

Unable to confirm whether it was the central bank or the Housing Bank the party which bought REFCO's stake, Mr. Abu Loha pointed out that his company's only earning from JIB was the foreign exchange difference between the value of the pound sterling at the time of buying (1983 or 1984) and last year when the investment was sold.

"Had we (REFCO) invested £75,000 from 1983 to 1991 in some other way, we would have profited much more than the difference in foreign exchange which we earned only once in over eight years," Mr. Abu Loha elaborated.

Abdalla Malki, general manager of the Association of Banks in Jordan, said he had no in-depth information about JIB but, after he was told of Mr. Khoury's profit forecast, he said animatedly:

"It's great news. The amount is good when taken against the capital. The bank should be turning the corner then after all these years of losses."

Mohammad Jamjoum, general manager of Jordan Kuwait Bank, showed little enthusiasm when he was asked about his bank's stand regarding JIB's viability. He seemed to agree with Dr. Kattan on the ownership issue when he mentioned that similar institutions have historically proved unsuccessful.

Pointing to the United Bank of Kuwait, the UBAF and the Arab Investment Company as examples, Mr. Jamjoum said that any structure built on the basis of a consortium is a weak entity that carries with it professional, operational and managerial ills.

Mr. Jamjoum highlighted that the Riyadh-based Arab Investment

Company has a \$350 million capital shared among 15 Arab countries but, so far, the company remains a dormant body.

Fayez Abul Inein, general manager of the Bank of Jordan, disagreed with the description of JIB as a consortium bank and emphasised that it was a fully-fledged British bank entitled to open branches anywhere in the European Community, regardless of the shareholding structure.

However, Mr. Abul Inein had a lot to say about JIB, constructive, positive criticism to help it become more important on the international scene and to cement the Jordanian presence in the financial world.

Mr. Abul Inein pointed out the following:

1) The need to strengthen JIB presence in Jordanian circles to serve the purpose of being Jordan's window to Europe.
2) The necessity to have JIB embark on a campaign to attract Jordanian businesses voluntarily through periodic visits, training programmes, credit offers and foreign exchange quotas.

3) The importance of implementing a defined strategy aimed at developing relations with Jordanian banks, foreign banks and a wider presence among the Arab communities in Britain.

He noted that JIB's staff at present lacks the "Jordanian knowledge and background" as none has the market and banking experience in the Kingdom.

The long-awaited JIB financial report, sent by Ms. Batshon, was received Saturday and, without much explanation, showed that JIB made a profit of £52,087 in 1991.

After deducting £210,067 to reflect changing circumstances in the lending portfolio and to meet Bank of England requirements on country debt provision, the net loss for 1991 was £157,980.

Adding the 1991 loss to the losses accumulated from previous years the "deficit on reserves carried forward" stood at £2,511,182.

Before concluding this evaluation, the Jordan Times sought the views of some junior bankers and notable businessmen about JIB. The following points were mentioned:

1) JIB is a "government bank" and dealing with it risks exposing private holdings and other confidential information.

2) The capital of the bank is small and it is doubtful JIB will ever be able to offer the services of big banks in Britain.

3) "The location of the bank in London is not very well known. I think it should relocate from 'hide me' street to a more prominent and exposed area like Oxford Street," one businessman joked.

JIB shareholders as of Dec. 31, 1991 were:

(1) Government of Jordan	20%
(2) The Housing Bank	29%
(3) Bank of Jordan	7.5%
(4) Jordan Kuwait Bank	7.8%
(5) Cairo Amman Bank	6.0%
(6) Jordan Gulf Bank	6.0%
(7) Jordan National Bank	6.0%
(8) Arab Banking Corporation-Jordan	5.0%
(9) Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	4.4%
(10) Amman Bank for Investments	4.0%
(11) Arab Jordan Investment Bank	4.0%

During 1991, the Petra Bank, the Syrian-Jordanian Bank, the Business Bank, Darco for Investments and Housing Co. and the Real Estate Financing Corporation (REFCO) had pulled out from JIB.

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (June 1 — June 5, 1992)

AMMAN — The surprise vote by Danes against ratification of the Maastricht Treaty, and its likely consequences, preoccupied market participants for most of last week, while cross-trading dominated. The release of U.S. May employment report at the end of the week added further daze to the trading floors. The dollar thus ended the week one per cent lower against the mark and 0.7 per cent lower against the yen.

Having fallen sharply before the weekend, the dollar rebounded to 1.6150 marks during Monday's trading, encouraged by positive U.S. statistics. But the U.S. unit retreated before the close of New York when the U.S. Treasury revised expectations of a possible Fed interest rate cut by voicing concern over the continued sluggish money supply growth in the U.S.

Tuesday, however, saw the dollar rise to its highest levels of the week against European currencies, on news that the Danish electorate had voted against ratification of the Maastricht Treaty. Traders saw the voting results as the first sign that European economic unity could actually stumble. The dollar closed at 1.6155 marks, 127.60 yen and 1.8130 dollars to the pound sterling.

The effect of the Danish vote continued to work through the market Wednesday arousing various analyses and scenarios of the possible consequences. Amidst such speculation, the mark rallied significantly, as investors rushed to buy the German currency, at the expense of the ECU and other European currencies, reflecting adversely on dollar prices. Fear of BOJ intervention, on the other hand, continued to support the Japanese currency putting a lid on its downside.

The U.S. unit continued to lose ground towards the end of the week on a combination of technical factors and mixed economic statistics. It dropped initially Thursday on news of a \$10.7 billion drop in weekly M2 U.S. money supply, when expectations were for a \$3.3 billion decline.

The dollar then declined further Friday to a low of 1.5825 marks in an initial reaction to the release of weak U.S. May employment data. The rise in unemployment came on the back of a complete reevaluation of previous payroll data. But as traders reevaluated their positions later that day, the U.S. currency rebounded on short covering, although this rebound was confined by the mark's rally against other currencies. The U.S. unit thus finished at its lowest closing levels of the week.

As for this week, expectations remain mixed. While some traders did not rule out the possibility of a further dollar drop to 1.57 marks, others considered 1.59 marks as a difficult support barrier to breach.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	29.5.1992 Close	5.6.1992 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.8285	1.8325	0.22 %
Deutsche Mark	1.6080	1.5910	1.07 %
Swiss Franc	1.4570	1.4524	0.32 %
French Franc	5.4010	5.3595	0.77 %
Japanese Yen	127.60	126.75	0.67 %

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	29.5.1992 1-Month (%)	5.6.1992 1-Month (%)	29.5.1992 3-Month (%)	5.6.1992 3-Month (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.81	4.59	3.81	4.59
Sterling Pound	10.00	9.87	10.56	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.56	9.62	9.56
Swiss Franc	8.93	8.62	9.37	8.75
French Franc	9.87	9.75	10.00	9.87
Japanese Yen	4.75	4.59	4.68	4.53

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 7.6.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6770	0.6790
Sterling Pound	1.2391	1.2453
Deutsche Mark	0.4249	0.4270
Swiss Franc	0.4657	0.4680
French Franc	0.1267	0.1268
Japanese Yen	0.5334	0.5361
Dutch Guilder	0.3773	0.3792
Swedish Krona	0.1178	0.1184
Italian Lira	0.0562	0.0565
Belgian Franc	0.02065	0.02075

Yeltsin tells Russians to expect higher prices

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin said Sunday Russians faced sharp price rises before the cost of living eased towards the end of the year.

"People must be ready for another price hike, following the rise in oil prices. It is sure to be the last step affecting prices," ITAR TASS news agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying.

The government decided in May to raise oil prices — a move that will raise costs throughout the economy.

"Stabilisation will follow and, by the end of the year, prices will fall," Mr. Yeltsin said at a meeting with local officials in Yekaterinburg, his hometown in the Urals where he was visiting his ailing mother.

In January, Mr. Yeltsin freed consumer prices as part of bold economic reforms aimed at shifting Russia's centralised economy to a free market. Prices immediately rocketed but since then, monthly inflation has remained around 35 per cent.

Price rises have caused an acute cash shortage in the country leading to delays in payment of salaries and pensions.

Mr. Yeltsin said the planned issue of new 5,000-rouble (\$60) banknotes and 500-rouble (\$6) gold coins would ease the cash crisis by July, TASS reported.

Milk and bread prices quadrupled Saturday in Moscow after the city government lifted price controls on the low-cost staples. Russians increasingly turned to when other foodstuffs became too expensive.

Milk and bread had been spared when the government lifted price controls on most goods Jan. 2, which sent prices for other foodstuffs skyrocketing and forced changes in the Russian diet.

With the lifting of controls, the price for a litre of milk soared to eight roubles, up from 1.95. A loaf of brown bread, which was sold for 1.80 roubles, cost 6.30 roubles on Saturday. White bread jumped from 2.50 roubles to 11 roubles.

A rouble is worth slightly less than a U.S. penny. "Now I will have to buy less milk, and milk is one of the few foodstuffs I can afford," said Inna Andrianova, 57, as she bought two cartons of milk.

Alexander Fyodorovich, an 81-year-old pensioner, complained bitterly about the new prices and blamed President Yeltsin.

Nearly 1/5 of U.S. workers hold low-paying jobs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly a fifth of the fulltime, year-round workers in the United States hold low-paying jobs, up from one in eight a decade earlier, the Census Bureau has said.

There were 14.4 million workers in 1990 who worked full time most of the year but didn't earn enough to keep a family of four out of poverty, a study by the bureau found. That's nearly double the 7.8 million workers earning below the poverty line in 1979.

The study said the increase in the low-end of the job market was caused by "structural or long-term factors" such as the loss of manufacturing jobs rather than by the ups and downs of the economic cycle.

Some economists conclude that higher-wage factory jobs were replaced by lower-paying positions in companies selling services rather than products.

The Census Bureau study showed low-wage jobs on the rise even during the economic boom that ended in the present recession.

The rising share of low-wage jobs cuts across boundaries of race, language, age and education.

Whites, blacks and Hispanics, young people, the middle-aged, the elderly, high-school dropouts and high-school graduates were all more likely to hold those kinds of jobs in 1990 than in 1979.

But blacks, Hispanics, the young and the less educated were more likely than others to hold

low-paying jobs.

Younger workers were hit particularly hard. People under 35 were about twice as likely to hold a low-paying job in 1990 than a decade earlier.

"If you finished high school in 1979, and had reasonably decent skills, it's more likely that you would be entering into some type of manufacturing job," said Isaac Shapiro, a researcher at the centre on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington issues group.

"Now that person is more likely to enter a service sector job, such as clerical work. It may be flipping hamburgers."

Increased international competition, declining union membership, and the failure of the minimum wage to keep up with inflation also account for the increase in low-wage jobs, Mr. Shapiro said.

The bureau defined a low-wage job as one paying below \$12,195, or about \$6.10 an hour, in 1990, and below \$6,905, or \$3.45 an hour, in 1979.

Dassault to cut 650 jobs

PARIS (AP) — Dassault Electronique S.A. has announced that it will cut 650 jobs, or 16.5 per cent of its work force, due to the slump in new orders for military electronic equipment.

Dassault Electronique said the job cuts would take place over the next 18 months and that the company will give priority to voluntary departures. It now employs 3,950 people.

The company said the job cuts will cost about \$37 million and will push it into the red in 1992. Last year, the company earned \$12 million rebounding from a loss of \$8 million in 1990.

Dassault Electronique, which is 60 per cent owned by the Dassault family, said it expects revenue this year will match the \$722 million in 1991.

The company indicated the layoffs were made necessary by the decision of the Finnish government not to order Mirage 2000-5 combat aircraft made by Dassault's sister company, Dassault Aviation.

The French government was notified of the Finnish decision on May 7, the company statement said.

The Finnish contract for 67 aircraft was ultimately won by the F-8 fighter made by McDonnell Douglas Corp. of the United States.

If Dassault had won the contract, Dassault Electronique stood to obtain orders worth \$227 million for calculators, software, guidance systems and other electronics.

France has tightened controls on military spending, and the company said as a result it is expecting fewer orders in research, development and production.

Qatar takes big step to sell gas to Italy

DUBAI (R) — The Gulf state of Qatar, seeking new revenue sources as its oil runs dry in the next century, has signed a big contract with Italy in its first sale of natural gas to Europe after securing a niche for its gas in Japan.

Qatar wants to use its vast offshore North Field natural gas "reservoir," the biggest single gas accumulation in the world with estimated reserves of up to 500-trillion cubic feet, to cash in on the growing demand for cleaner natural gas due to environmental worries in the West.

The Qatar News Agency (QNA) said Qatar signed the joint venture agreement with SNAM SPA, part of Italy's state-owned Ente Nazionale "Idrocarburi" (ENI), and the U.S. oil tycoon Nelson Bunker Hunt.

The deal foresees the supply of an initial six million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Italy starting in 1997, rising to 9.2 million tonnes if other markets in Europe are secured later. Cost figures were not disclosed.

A similar scheme to sell LNG to Chubu Electric Power Co. of Japan is expected to cost \$4 billion to \$5 billion. Qatar, through its subsidiary Qatargas, last month signed a deal with Chubu to sell four million tonnes of LNG for 25 years starting in 1997.

Qatar is a small oil producer pumping some 380,000 barrels per day of crude but its reserves are expected to be depleted in the first quarter of the next century.

Hamis and Fateh to cooperate

agreement to merge Hamis with the PLO," it said.

Both sides compromised in reaching the agreement.

Hamis dropped its demand that the PLO embrace Islam before any agreement between the two groups. Fateh agreed to denounce incidents of violence between Fateh and Hamis supporters, Palestinians said.

The joint statement also condemned the killing by fellow Palestinians of those who collaborated with Israel.

The two movements, call on the public to think seriously about the subject of liquidation of collaborators and to heed the decisions of the organisations' leadership based on a mature and correct interrogation "the leaflet said."

Masked men in the Gaza Strip Sunday shot dead a local mukhtar suspected of collaborating with Israel, Palestinians and Israeli sources said.

Some Palestinians long for Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

"Jordan's rule, of course, was not an occupation, even though we were not able to exercise our right to self-determination," said Mr. Abu Hilal, reflecting widely held Palestinian views that do not regard fellow Arabs as occupiers.

While many Palestinians still remember Jordanian rule and favour it over Israel's much-hated military occupation, most West Bank residents were born or grew up after 1967.

Before 1967 many Palestinians were critical of Amman's suppression of demonstrations and political freedoms. After the war they accused Jordan of favouring its own economy

over that of the West Bank and spending money on its capital Amman rather than Jerusalem.

Many West Bank residents are now convinced that it would be difficult for a future Palestinian state to thrive without some kind of ties with Amman.

Recent reforms by King Hussein and parliamentary elections in Jordan have injected a new warmth in to Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

"The truth is that Palestinians and Jordanians in Jordan are proud of their unique democratic experiment," said Mr. Abu Hilal, who lived in Jordan after he was exiled by Israel in 1988.

Recent violence in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Rabin said: "I have always believed that we have to carry a policy that stands on two feet: One, negotiation second, the use of all our military and other means to send a clear message to the Palestinians in the territories that they can forget that by throwing stones, bottles, knifing, they can budge Israel one millimetre territorially, one millimetre from our political commitment to negotiate its autonomy."

With voting less than three weeks off, the latest batch of opinion polls on Friday showed Labour's lead over Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud party narrowing.

Mr. Rabin said he hoped the election of a Labour state would persuade the United States to grant Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees it had been seeking. "I can't say it for sure because I have not been in touch with any official of the U.S. government," he said in responding to a question about U.S.-Israel relations.

Asked how he would handle anti-occupation unrest, as in the

Fighting shatters Sarajevo; buildings burn, water cut off

BELGRADE (R) — Rebel Serb gunners rained mortar shells on central Sarajevo in fierce fighting during the night, leaving a string of buildings burning in the embattled Bosnian capital on Sunday.

"It was worse than what we've become used to," Sarajevo radio reporter Esref Hodzic said when contacted by telephone. "The shelling eased up a bit in the morning but several big buildings were hit during the night and some are on fire."

Efforts to combat the fires were hindered because the city's main reservoir was blasted by mortars and running water was cut off for the first time in the Bosnian capital, he said.

The sky was lit up by artillery, rockets and mortars for most of the night in the latest battle of the year-long disintegration of the state of Yugoslavia set up in 1918.

Bosnia-Herzegovina's orthodox Serbs, a 30 per cent minority, rebelled after the majority Muslim Croats and Muslims voted for independence in early March, breaking away from Yugoslavia.

In the latest round, heavy fighting between Serb irregulars and their Croat and Muslim foes has rocked Sarajevo since Friday and at least 12 people have been killed and 20 wounded, local reporters said. One person was killed in the city overnight.

Fighting has also been reported near the historic Croatian port of Dubrovnik on the Adriatic. One

Croatian soldier was reported killed and two wounded on Saturday.

Buildings burning in Sarajevo included the 18-storey UNIS building, a modern glass structure in the city centre, and the sprawling Marshal Tito barracks, taken over by Muslim militias after the Yugoslav army pulled out on Friday.

The main emergency hospital was hit by mortars twice during the night and the old town, Stari Grad, was battered with heavy fire. A main department store, Sarajka, was ablaze.

Some 300,000 people trapped in Sarajevo spend most of their time huddled in basements for protection. They are running low on food and medicine and are subject to long power cuts and water breaks.

"We're in prison. We don't know what will happen in the next few minutes," said Ruzmir, a resident contacted by telephone in the heavily-bombed Dobrinje district.

The latest fighting erupted on Friday evening as U.N. peacekeepers struck a deal with Serb irregulars to hand over Sarajevo airport so that relief supplies could be flown in.

The U.N. peacekeepers set up headquarters in Sarajevo this year for 14,000 troops deployed in neighbouring Croatia, which declared independence from Yugoslavia last June and was the scene of months of heavy

fighting.

U.N. control of the airport and relief supplies appeared on Sunday to depend on a ceasefire — and none was in sight.

"We haven't seen any meat in over 15 days," said Hodzic. Asked what was available, he laughed and said: "Mustard. The local shop has an enormous amount of mustard, some pastry, tea, soap and some boxes of cookies."

A local milk factory was hit by mortar fire on Friday but produced 7,000 litres (1,500 gallons) of milk, 10 per cent of capacity, after repairs on Saturday, he said.

In fighting on Saturday, the Serb gunners in mountain strongholds above Sarajevo hit the train station, telephone exchange and two hospitals, wounding five patients and a nurse.

"There's shooting from all sides with every kind of weapon. There are lots of fires in the city centre and the sky is lit up almost like daylight," local reporter Zlatan Cabaravdic said on Saturday night.

More than 5,700 people have been killed, 22,000 wounded and a million made homeless in the past three months in Bosnia. The Serbs want to stay in the new, smaller Yugoslavia, now composed of just two republics, Serbia and Montenegro.

Four other republics voted for independence and seceded — Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia.

U.S. isolated at Earth Summit

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Japan will join Britain and the 11 other members of the European Community in breaking with the United States to sign a treaty to protect threatened species, officials have said.

That leaves the United States alone among the major economic powers in opposing the biodiversity convention, one of the cornerstones of the United Nations Earth Summit.

President George Bush has refused to sign the treaty, saying, "we're going to keep on this path... I must, as president, and will, as a human being, keep in mind the needs of American families to have jobs."

"With the Japanese signing, there is no excuse for the Americans not signing," said Russell Mittermeier, a biologist and president of Conservation International in Washington, D.C.

"The same concerns the Japanese have on the details app-

ly to the other industrialised nations as well. If they sign, there's no question the U.S. should be signing."

He said the biodiversity convention is more important than the summit's other principle document, the global warming treaty, "because loss of biodiversity is an irreversible process."

"We have the technologies to combat most other environmental ills, but once we lose a species of plant or animal, it's gone forever," he said.

Japan's statement on the treaty said it was "studying articles with a view to signing the convention."

Sadaaki Numata, the delegation's spokesman, said "in our system, we won't say we are studying certain articles and then decide later not to sign it."

The treaty must be translated into Japanese and presented to the Japanese cabinet for approval, he said. But he suggested that

was merely a formality. He said Japan might complete the process in time to sign the treaty by the end of the Earth Summit on June 14th.

A spokesman for the European countries, conscious of the difficult position the United States was in, said the European Community planned to join President Bush in his \$150 million proposal to help preserve tropical forests, Laurens Jan Brinkhorst said.

"We regret the isolation of the United States," Mr. Brinkhorst told a news briefing. "We don't want a slugging match of everybody against the United States."

Mr. Brinkhorst said Britain has not formally announced its intentions, but he predicted that Britain would sign before the summit ends. British Prime Minister John Major met with Mr. Bush Saturday to discuss Earth Summit issues, among other things.

U.S. Sen. Al Gore of Tennessee, said that as a result of Amer-

ica's refusal to sign the biodiversity treaty, "the diplomatic isolation is almost complete."

The Democratic lawmaker, who arrived in Rio on Friday, said the isolation could cost his country its leadership role in the post-cold war world.

"Just as we gained tremendous advantages in leading the world after World War II in constructing institutions, so we will gain a tremendous disadvantage in the post-cold war world," he said.

"The right-wingers (in the White House) have led the president into making a trip to Rio that resembles the trip to Tokyo," Mr. Gore said. "Next they'll advise him to bring the coal executives with him on Air Force One."

This was a reference to Mr. Bush's trip to Japan in the spring, where he was accompanied by American automobile executives.

Conservatives in the Bush administration are blamed for the leak of a memo last week that rebuked Washington's chief delegate, William K. Reilly, for suggesting that the United States reconsider its opposition to the biodiversity treaty.

Formal sessions of the Earth Summit were suspended until Monday.

But in closed-door negotiations on Saturday, delegates stalled in their efforts to complete the so-called forest principles, a declaration aimed at encouraging conservation in tropical, temperate and northern forests.

Peking improving, says dissident

PEKING (R) — China's best-known dissident journalist, given leave to return home by hardline Premier Li Peng, said in Peking on Sunday that China's government is gradually improving its human rights record.

As she was hustled into a car by plainclothes security officers, Dai Qing shouted to waiting reporters that she felt Peking was making progress.

"I'm very happy the Chinese government has changed its attitude," she said, clutching the arm of her husband and daughter who met her at the airport.

"The Chinese government is slowly changing from a rigid, unchanging government into a more professional, law-abiding government. We should all welcome this."

"They have made some progress, and this should be recognised."

A liberal intellectual, Ms. Dai was imprisoned without charges for several months in the wake of the 1989 pro-democracy protests, and was relieved of her duties at her government-controlled paper, the Guangming daily.

Ms. Dai, 51, left China last year to take up a prestigious Nieman fellowship at Harvard University in the United States.

She was stranded in Hong Kong last week after airline officials told her Peking had barred her from boarding any plane into China, where she planned to spend her summer holiday.

A prominent Hong Kong editor who serves on an advisory body to the Chinese government contacted Mr. Li Peng on Monday to express his concern over the case. Mr. Li replied with a telegramme saying Ms. Dai would be allowed to return.

whole truth about Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

The two sides cannot agree on arrangements for mutual inspections of each other's nuclear facilities, an issue blocking moves towards rapprochement.

The official (North) Korean central news agency said an IAEA inspection team left North Korea on Saturday.

The inspectors arrived in Pyongyang on May 25 for a two-week tour of nuclear sites. They will report their findings to the IAEA board of governors' meeting due to begin in Tokyo on June 15.

Japan's troops bill delayed for 3rd day

TOKYO (R) — Japan's "ox-walking" opposition legislators have successfully delayed passage of a controversial troops bill during a marathon session of parliament entering its third day on Sunday.

But officials of the ruling party said the opposition's resolve was waning. They said the bill — which would allow Japan to send troops abroad for the first time since World War II — could pass the upper house as early as Monday.

After months of delay, a milder version of the peace-keeping operations (PKO) bill — limiting troops to United Nations activities and disaster relief — was approved by a key panel of parliament's upper house early on Friday.

Its passage through the full house was regarded as a formality until the Socialists and Communists utilised various ruses to hold up legislation, they say.

Operating round-the-clock, the parties have held up the session since Friday by presenting eight no-confidence motions against Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, five of his ministers and two upper house committee leaders who supported the bill.

By Sunday morning, after a

seven-hour all-night session, the chamber had managed to kill off only two of the eight motions, including the one against Mr. Miyazawa.

The opposition, outnumbered by the ruling party and two centrist parties backing the bill, is also resorting to a bizarre filibuster known as the "ox-walk."

On Friday night, legislators took from 30 to 45 minutes to walk up to the podium to cast their ballots, delaying the vote for almost 12 hours and creating a new ox-walk record.

"We've still got a long way to go," Mr. Miyazawa told ruling party legislators on Sunday morning, after surviving his own no-confidence motion.

"Thank you for your support and keep up your stamina."

A spokesman for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said the leftists were waning in their battle against the bill.

"They've already speeded up the ox-walk, to seven hours from almost 12 the night before," he said. "We're hoping they'll agree to a compromise today so we can pass the bill by Monday."

LDP baron Shin Kanemaru, regarded as Japan's most powerful behind-the-scenes politician, issued several long-distance warnings to prompt the opposition to reconsider.

Khmer Rouge block U.N. peacekeepers

JOMTIEN, Thailand (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas are preventing Dutch marines from crossing the Thai border to begin disarming Cambodian fighters under a U.N. peace accord, a Dutch military spokesman said on Sunday.

About 350 Dutch marines — part of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) set up after a peace agreement signed in October in Paris to end 13 years of civil war — are cooling their heels in this Thai beach resort a few hours drive from the Cambodian border.

The deployment of 400 more has been put on hold while diplomats and Cambodian officials in

Phnom Penh try to break the Khmer Rouge's intransigence. Disarming and cantonment of the Phnom Penh government's army and those of the three guerrilla factions was due to begin on June 13.

This is called phase two of an ambitious peace plan drawn up by the United Nations after four factions signed the Paris accord. But there are now fears the Khmer Rouge are on the verge of backing out.

The Khmer Rouge, held responsible for the deaths of a million Cambodians during their brutal rule in the late 1970s, say UNTAC has failed to verify the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.



James Baker

Baker: We're not world's policeman

PRINCETON, New Jersey (R) — Secretary of State James Baker said Saturday the United States must pursue a policy which would let Washington take a leading global role without being the "world's policeman."

"We should pursue a policy of collective engagement," under which the United States would work together with its allies on world questions, Mr. Baker said.

"Collective engagement steers a sensible middle ground between omnipotent unilateralism and misplaced multi-lateralism," Mr. Baker told 1,800 fellow Princeton University alumni at a reunion panel which included former Secretary of State George Schultz.

"We're not the world's policeman. We cannot be. We should not be. We ought not to undertake that responsibility," Mr. Baker said.

Mr. Baker said the fruits of freedom had been felt in many newly democratic nations but said that war may break out in democratic countries that cannot control ethnic conflict.

Mr. Schultz said the United States was fortunate to have ethnic and political diversity. He said countries like Japan that were not diverse would not be equipped to compete in a global marketplace.

Romanian parliament to break deadlock

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's parliament meets on Monday in a bid to break a deadlock over new election laws and to set a date for overdue parliamentary and presidential polls.

After months of stalling by left-wing backers of President Ion Iliescu, a veteran Communist, the senate and the chamber of deputies will meet jointly to settle the dispute.

The lower house, dominated by the National Salvation Front (NSF) party of ex-premier Petre Roman, has accepted a demand for simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections, which would give Mr. Iliescu an advantage.

But it wants polls on July 26 — roughly in line with the hopes of Western creditors. The senate, where the pro-Iliescu Democratic National Salvation Front (DNSF) is strong, wants the elections delayed until the autumn, and it wants them separated.

Cynics believe the left wing is trying to derail the polls in order to fuel economic chaos and unrest which would create conditions for Socialists to regain power.

Romania ended more than four decades of hardline Communist rule in December 1989 when Statist leader Nicolae Ceausescu was ousted and shot in a bloody revolution. But influential Communists such as Mr. Iliescu have

held on to senior posts.

Another Communist, senate speaker Alexander Biradeanu, said on Friday summer holidays would cause a low turnout and a parliament of dubious legitimacy if polls took place in July. He said they should be held instead in September.

"The election date has become an artificial gordian knot of the pre-election campaign," the pro-Iliescu daily Dimineata said in an editorial comment.

The independent daily Adevarul said parliament had become a "vanity fair" and that the elections were being delayed because leaders of political parties were afraid of the voters.

Azerbaijan votes for president

BAKU, Azerbaijan (R) — Azerbaijan voted on Sunday in presidential elections that could herald the unravelling of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and a decisive phase in the country's undeclared war with Armenia.

Popular Front leader Abulfaz Elchibey, the man most likely to fill a power vacuum in this former Soviet republic, rejected Azerbaijan's participation in the struggling CIS as he cast his ballot in the capital, Baku.

He also said he supported the idea of deploying United Nations peacekeeping forces along the border with neighbouring

Armenia.

"We will deal with every state — Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine — separately," he told journalists in response to a question about Azeri CIS membership.

Azerbaijan has pursued a similar independent line to Ukraine and Moldova in opposing Russian-backed plans for creation of a unified commonwealth army. It fears Moscow dominance of the 11-member alliance, formed last December on the ruins of the Soviet Union.

Under Mr. Elchibey, this oil-producing Transcaucasian nation would lean towards Turkey in its foreign policy and pursue free

market economic reforms.

However, the main issue for most Azeris is Nagorno-Karabakh, scene of the worst ethnic violence in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Elchibey, who arrived to vote in a police car flying a white flag, told reporters the problem was not settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict but preventing "attacks by Armenians on Azerbaijan."

All five presidential candidates say that Nagorno-Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan. But their approaches to asserting Azeri power in the mostly Armenian-populated enclave vary.

North Korea reportedly proposes nuclear trade-off

SEOUL (R) — North Korea has offered to stop producing plutonium — a key component of a nuclear bomb — if the International Atomic Energy (IAEA) provides it with alternative technology for nuclear power plants, South Korean news reports said on Sunday.

State radio and Yonhap news agency, quoting diplomatic sources in Seoul, said Pyongyang made the proposal when in talks with U.S. officials in Beijing on Jan. 1.

North Korea acknowledged it had produced a tiny amount of

plutonium at its Yongbyon plant but told the U.S. side it would not produce plutonium through its nuclear reprocessing facilities if the IAEA provided technology and enriched uranium, the sources were quoted as saying.

Yonhap quoted a source as saying the North Korean offer "is noteworthy but we need to closely watch whether it came from its sincere attitude or from an idea to hide its nuclear arms development programme."

The reports said Pyongyang expressed the same idea to IAEA Director-General Hans Blix

when he visited the north last month to inspect nuclear facilities.

South Korea and the United States fear the isolated north is close to building a nuclear bomb, a charge North Korea denies.

Mr. Blix said after his trip that the north had produced plutonium — not enough to make a weapon — at the Yongbyon plant, 90 kilometres north of Pyongyang.

Although the north has allowed IAEA inspections, Seoul says such visits cannot reveal the

COLUMN

Bangladeshi condoms being smuggled to India

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshi border guards say a long list of goods smuggled to India now includes condoms, particularly ones with the brand name "Raja" (King). "Raja condoms are in high demand in India and smugglers are doing a brisk business taking this opportunity," one officer told reporters in the north east. "The Indians like Rajas because they are very cheap and of better quality," the officer said Monday. Family planning rules provide for free distribution of condoms among Bangladeshis to encourage birth control. But many suppliers sell them through stationary shops and tea stalls. The Health Ministry organised street shows in Dhaka and other cities in March to mark the "sale of one billion Rajas."

Oops, sorry, Belgium's air force will try that again

BRUSSELS (R) — A Belgian Air Force cargo plane is still practicing a bombing-run manoeuvre after raining eight tonnes of sandbags and rocks on a shop and injuring a couple of customers. "It really is a field in which we Belgians are quite good," Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt, who lives near the devastated shop, said of low-altitude deliveries of relief supplies. He told television the accident — which sent two people to hospital after they were hit on the head by falling sandbags — was a freak. Four others were treated for shock. The air force Hercules C-130's load injured shoppers at a do-it-yourself store when the crew's timing proved too slow in trying to hit a practice target. The crew pledged to have another go at the manoeuvre when most shops are closed. This time, without the potentially deadly load. In fact, said Belgian Television, the Hercules would practise the exercise but not drop anything at all this time, as part of an air show near the city of Charleroi.

Lights, camera, action for television show. Oops. Wrong house

KENT, Washington (AP) — Lights, camera, action: Police kick in the door of a suspected crack dealer. Guns drawn, they charge upstairs. They find a terrified couple and four sleeping children. All are ordered to hit the floor. The officers find no drugs. Oops. Wrong address. While a television crew filmed the raid, King County officers realised they had hit the wrong side of a duplex. It was too late for the half-naked, handcuffed woman whose posterior was recorded for posterity. "They pulled me out of bed and put a gun on me," Theresa Glover said. "Here I am with my butt showing, and I see the camera. Finally, someone put a cover over me." It wasn't the first time King County police raided the wrong address. A year ago, officers mistakenly charged into the home of Terry Krussel. Five months later, police came knocking again, this time with an arrest warrant meant for someone else. In each case, police had written the wrong address on an affidavit used to obtain a search warrant. "I understand the police were just trying to do their job," Mrs. Glover said. "But what they did was wrong. They should be more careful." The commander of the Maple Valley Precinct, Maj. Larry Mayes, agreed. He said two things went wrong: The sergeant leading the raid failed to verify the address, and the officers staking out the suspected drug house weren't in the front line of the raid. There is a chance the mishap could be broadcast by the television programme "Cops," which features footage of police raids, Maj. Mayes said. "How much more embarrassing can you get?" he asked.

Jeweller shoots burglars with their gun

RUSHDEN, England (R) — A British jeweller shot two armed burglars with their own revolver after they broke into his home, tied him up and took cash and jewels. Malcolm Hammond, 44, told reporters he and his wife were going to bed when the men burst in to their home in Hertfordshire, north of London, and tied him up. He wriggled free as they were leaving with the loot, grabbed a gun from one of them and "just fired a couple of times."

Diana 'suicide' story starts media frenzy

By Nicholas Moore
Reuters

LONDON — Britain's Princess Diana tried to kill herself five times in despair about her marriage to heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, according to a book serialised by a British Sunday newspaper.

As the Sunday Times began to print excerpts from the book, amid questions about the future of the 1,000-year-old British monarchy, a rival publication urged the royal family to break tradition and sue for libel if it says the stories are untrue.

The royals have stayed aloof from the courts since 1911 when

an editor who said King George V was a bigamist got a year's jail. The new book is "Diana — Her True Story" by royal-watcher Andrew Morton. Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil whetted appetites when he quoted Mr. Morton on television on Saturday night as saying Princess Diana made five "suicide bids" in the early 1980s.

On one occasion she was said to have hurled herself down the stairs at the royal country home at Sandringham after a blazing row with Prince Charles — to be found by Queen Elizabeth, elderly mother of the present sovereign.

The Sun newspaper, like the Sunday Times a part of Australia-

lian-born tycoon Rupert Murdoch's stable, said Princess Diana was pregnant at the time.

Princess Diana, now 30, and Prince Charles, who is 12 years older, were married a decade ago.

Mr. Neil said on Sky News Television that Princess Diana now felt her story should be told, that she does not believe she is going to be queen and "it may be as a result of these revelations that there will be a question mark over Charles being king."

As the latest firestorm in a media circulation war raged around them, Prince Charles and Princess Diana entertained friends at their Highgrove country mansion.

They were also together at the annual sports day on Saturday at the boarding school of their eldest son Prince William, nine.

They arrived, and left, in separate luxury sports cars.

Buckingham palace maintained stoic silence about the allegations, which closely follow two royal marital bust-ups.

Queen Elizabeth's daughter Princess Anne has just divorced and is said to be in love with a naval commander, while the queen's second son Prince Andrew and his wife, flame-haired "fergie" the Duchess of York, plan to separate.

Edward VIII renounced the throne to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

According to an editorial in the Independent on Sunday, the royal family "is in a pitiful state by the standards of the Christian virtues it claims to uphold. Living by its publicity, the royal family may yet die by it."

Courtiers, however, may have been cheered by an opinion poll by ICM for the News of the World tabloid newspaper which suggested that three quarters of Britons thought their monarchy would survive even if Prince Charles and Princess Diana divorced.

And Queen Elizabeth found an ally in the conservative Sunday Telegraph which said that nobody knew the truth and asked what the palace could do when it was the victim of "a newspaper feeding frenzy."

Lawyers say the unwritten constitution lets the royals do more or less as they please with their private lives — provided no monarch weds a Roman Catholic and the heir is legitimate.

George IV in the early 19th century survived a fearful scandal over his bid to divorce his queen, Caroline, who was shut out of his coronation and beat on the door to try to get in.

The Sunday Times is thought to have paid around \$450,000 to serialise Morton's book.



Princess Diana